



HISTORY'S NO. 1 FOUNDER

BOOK 03

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EPUB CREATION BY LISA HAYES

History's Number 1 Founder

(史上第一祖师爷)

by

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Synopsis

He time-traveled and got a system but Ling Feng's pressure is as big as a mountain.

System main quest: Ling Feng creates a school, establishing history's number 1 sect, Ling Feng himself becoming the number 1 founder.

And so to become history's number 1 founder Ling Feng started to work hard.

“Your name is Shi Tianhao? Natural born supreme king but it was stolen by your cousin.

Now being raised in a little village your father placed you in? Come come come, come with master, we'll let those people know that justice that is owed must be returned!”

“Your name is Xiao Yan? A genius in the past, now a loser. Your fiance even came over and humiliated you by breaking off the engagement? Come come come, come with master, we'll let that brat know the meaning of don't bully a youngster because he's poor!”

“Your name is Zhu Yi? The bastard son of a marquis, suppressed by your father. Your mother was the previous saint but she was killed? Come come come, come with master, we'll let your dad know the meaning of the world is big, fists are... no, reason is the biggest!”

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Chapter 201: Cursed Lone Star

Lin Feng suddenly felt that the mana in the body of Wang Lin had a sudden fluctuation, which was a little abnormal.

"Lin, perform some spells for me to see." Lin Feng knitted his brows while saying.

Wang Lin nodded his head and performed a new spell, which was not the Celestial Finger of Styx.

"After I had consolidated my powers, I learnt a new type of spell. However, I still need the guidance of you, my master."

He used his palms to initiate the spell and under the surge of his mana, a black-yellow line slightly appeared in space. A turbid path emerged from the inside of it gradually.

As Lin Feng saw the current situation, he flicked his brow and soared into the sky. He then set foot on the black-yellow path that Wang Lin had created.

The path did not seem to have an end. In the instant that Lin Feng landed on the path, the scenery and all matter disappeared from his line of vision.

In front of his eyes laid a path of nothingness. At the same time,

countless memories rushed into his mind and ferociously attacked the soul of Lin Feng.

"Was that the power of Samsara?" Lin Feng said as he calmed his soul. As he looked beneath him, innumerable withering bones and arms were emerging from the black-yellow soil and grabbing ferociously at Lin Feng, trying to pull him into the path.

The base of this path seemed to have buried hundreds and thousands of resentful souls. Once any sign of life land on the path, these souls would try to pull them down to accompany them.

Lin Feng comprehended and said, "Your new spell is able to create the pathway linking life and death?"

It was obvious that although Wang Lin used the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams to consolidate his powers, he managed to infuse the power concept of several Pearl of Styx to enter it during his understanding of the mantra.

Lin Feng did not mind this and maintained the calmness of his soul, refusing to be affected by the power of Samsara.

The clawing bones that were attacking his ankles had crushed even before they could reach the body of Lin Feng.

What Lin Feng minded was that this spell cast by Wang Lin contained a streak of dark and frightening aura within it.

Yes, it was frightening.

Since Lin Feng formed the golden elixir and survived the frightening experience, there had been very little things that made him frightened in this world. But after experiencing the mana from Wang Lin, Lin Feng felt a little frightened.

He was not scared of Wang Lin. In his eyes, Wang Lin did not possess extremely potent powers, but within his mana consisted of a power concept that developed a sense of fright within Lin Feng.

That was a power that superseded death.

Heaven and Earth could be destroyed!

When there was new life, there was naturally destruction. After destruction followed creation. This cycle was known as destiny.

A cultivator might surmount the entrance to life and death and exceed the boundaries of human longevity, attaining immortality.

But in the face of the destruction of Heaven and Earth, they would be unable to escape death.

If a man suffered, his entire family would not be spared from it too.

Therefore, after superseding life and death, the only thing that

could frighten Lin Feng was only nature and the destiny that would destroy everything in the world.

As for Wang Lin, he had only finished consolidating his powers and he had already realized a portion of the power concept of the destruction of Heaven and Earth.

"You are displaying remarkable intelligence, which makes me more excited to see your performance after you form the golden elixir." Lin Feng sighed, "This type of intelligence is too outrageous."

Initially, when Xiao Bu Dian comprehended the Two Elements of Thunderstorm, Lin Feng had already felt that it was not simple.

But Wang Lin's realization of the powers of the destruction of Heaven and Earth involved a higher level of intelligence, which makes one puzzled.

Life and Death are the foundations of everything and they are also the most powerful Two Elements of Creation, even higher than that of Thunderstorm and Light and Darkness.

Wang Lin had just established his foundation and had already experienced the edge of "destruction". This made Lin Feng sighed endlessly, "Following animals like all of you really remove the fun and leisure as the stress that you all give is extremely intense. I also have to work hard, otherwise, there may be a disaster coming."

Would there not be a disaster? By the looks of Wang Lin, disasters would come endlessly and he would be all alone. He was entirely a cursed lone star.

What was a cursed lone star?

Simply put, it was colloquially known as a jinx. He would be free on his own and rid of all curses even if he got himself into big trouble. But the people around him would be jinxed.

It was like a storm. The center of the wind was mild and quiet, but its surroundings would be torn apart and anyone near it would be killed.

Since Lin Feng had already accepted Wang Lin as his disciple, he could not push him aside. He had also decided not to change

Wang Lin's personality and his style of doing things.

If his style and personality changed, Wang Lin would not be Wang Lin. In the future, it might be hard to say if he could achieve the success that was predicted of him.

Since he did not plan to change Wang Lin, what Lin Feng could only do was to ceaselessly strengthen his own body. When Wang Lin brings upon a disaster, he could ensure that he would not be swept into the crisis.

At the same time, Lin Feng heartlessly thought, "But, there are

some lucky chaps around Wang Lin, people whose destinies were good, at least they will be able to resist the jinx from Wang Lin?"

While his mind was filled with nonsensical thoughts, Lin Feng released his mana and easily stepped away from the Road to River Styx. He nodded at Wang Lin and said, "That was not bad, but there is room for improvement."

"In other words, you need to increase and deeply comprehend the way of destruction. Your understanding now is lacking and you also need to understand the way of the creation of life, before you can rise above your level."

Lin Feng adopted a serious tone, "Otherwise, even if the destructive powers allow you to become formidable and unbeatable, without similar powers of creation, your road in the future will become narrower until you walk into a dead end."

"Pure destructive power will totally remove your own lease of life. When it reaches that point, it will be too late. Not only will your level of mantra be unable to increase, you may even lose your life."

Wang Lin's expression was also very serious, nodding while saying, "I will definitely remember your teachings."

He lowered his head and pondered for awhile, before saying, "Please take a look, Master."

As Wang Lin lifted his hand and pointed into space, another black-yellow death-ridden path appeared. Lin Feng scanned the area before finding out that even though the death-ridden path was very intriguing, it did not contain the destructive powers that left people frightened.

Lin Feng laughed, "Very good, you have good control of your own powers now."

Wang Lin also smiled, "I shall name this power the Destructive Death. It shall not be loosely used. It will only be used against a formidable opponent by entering the Destructive Death Stage, before fitting the entire destructive concept into your mana and killing the opponent."

Lin Feng nodded his head, "This will be the best, but this will be a test of your judgement. At times, your opponents will not give you the opportunity at another shot to regain your standing."

Wang Lin agreed, "Master, I will remember your teachings."

"As for the power concept of creation...." Lin Feng lifted his hand and pointed. A huge amount of Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds in the sky surged into Wang Lin's body. "Use your heart to understanding the wonder within. The Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds is also known as the mother of all Heaven-Revolving Clouds and it has the unlimited power of creating all matter."

"And your Destructive Death spell is also not bad with more potential to be discovered." Lin Feng followed by saying, "The core

of the Pearl of Styx lies in the River Styx Primordial Water."

Wang Lin nodded repeatedly, heeding Lin Feng's advice.

At this point, Lin Feng suddenly felt that at the bottom of Mount Yujing and the Lingyun Peak within Mount Kunlun resonated a familiar power pulse.

"This feels very similar, where did I see it before?" Lin Feng suddenly remembered, "Yes, it is the Grand Moon Primordial Water."

Why did this thing suddenly appear at Lingyun Peak?

Lin Feng felt that it was weird. He saw through space and his godly awareness landed on Lingyun Peak, seeing a flustered young man decked in a white dress being surrounded and pursued by a group of men dressed in green.

"It is really him." Lin Feng's brows slightly frowned. This young man who was being pursued was Yang Qing, someone who he had met before due to fate.

Yang Qing was a disciple of the Cloud Water Cave Sect from the north foot of Mount Kunlun. When Lin Feng initially came to Mount Kunlun to search for Mount Yujing, he had once acquainted with Yang Qing and went through the appearance of Grand Moon Primordial Water and the Grand Fire Crow revolt.

During that period, a disciple from the Aeolus Sect, Gao Fan, attempted to steal the life power of many alongside him. He used the evil spell, the Great Furnace of the Commons, to reinforce and refine the Grand Moon Primordial Water, only to be destroyed by Lin Feng. The Grand Moon Primordial Water whereabouts were unknown from then on. He deduced that it should have been buried inside the body of someone who was at the scene.

He just did not expect that the lucky guy was Yang Qing.

After a long time without seeing Yang Qing, Yang Qing's cultivation had finally risen to the Foundation Establishment Stage.

But it was a pity that his opponents overwhelmed him. The leader had even cultivated till the Aurous Core stage. If it were not for the fact that he was trying to catch Yang Qing alive, Yang Qing would have long been defeated.

Lin Feng gaze brightened, "Is that the Aeolus Sect?"

The mana of this group of men dressed in green was obviously cultivating the Aeolus Formless Mantra from the Aeolus Sect. The spells that they were exhibiting were spells like the Tornado Cut and the Helical Ground Hurricane, mostly from the Aeolus Sect.

Yang Qing was his old self. His battling powers were of average ability and he was pushed to the edge by a bunch of enemies.

Luckily for him, every time Yang Qing was unable to hold on, his index finger would lock straight like a blade and point forward.

There would be a streak of jade-green water spurting out of it.

This jade-green water was the Grand Moon Primordial Water.

Once it enters the river valley at the Lingyun Peak, it would

immediately convert the river water into a jade-green color.

After that, these greenish river water would be under the command of Yang Qing, to help him ward off his enemies.

The spiritual energy of the river water was very powerful. They key laid in the majesty of the water, which could easily counter the opponent's move. It could even easily force a cultivator of the Aeolus Sect to back off.

Upon seeing this scene, Lin Feng sighed, "The Grand Moon Primordial Water is termed the commander of all waters. It was definitely not a false claim, as Yang Qing could easily strut his powers in any place filled with water. Over here, his powers could

trounce a cultivator in the Aurous Core Stage.

"If this was a big lake or a huge river nearby, his powers will rise.

If it was at the sea, his powers will be indescribable."

The thing was, Yang Qing had already fought valiantly for a long time, which caused his mana to deplete. Even if it was the Grand Moon Primordial Water, there was no way it could be continually utilized for very long.

Lin Feng shook his head slightly, "Out of so many individuals, only you have attained the Grand Moon Primordial Water. Your luck is not bad, even as your mana is depleting, you have stumbled upon us. Young man, your luck never seems to run out."

He turned his head towards Wang Lin, "Go and prepare to practically train your spell, along with your new Dual Polarity Circle.

Wang Lin's eyes brightened as he heard of that.

Chapter 202: If The Disciple Is Like This, What Can The Master Do?

Yang Qing only felt that his entire body from head to toe was extremely cold. It was as if he fell into an ice cove. He was shivering uncontrollably.

But he knew from his gut that the chills that he was feeling right now were different from the cold that he felt normally.

This was a chill within his soul and had nothing to do with temperature changes. His soul was unstable and it could disintegrate any second, which was what was causing the chill.

"Is this the result of my soul being overly worn and my mana overly drained?" Yang Qing felt that his consciousness gradually grew blurry. To have sustained until now, it was only possible due to one breath in his heart.

Ma Zhi, a cultivator in the Aurous Core Stage from the Aeolus Sect, was standing at a distance and he was creepily laughing at Yang Qing, who was crumbling.

"Originally, I only wanted to interrogate you regarding any news of the leader of the Celestial Sect. I did not expect that your body contained the Grand Moon Primordial Water, the most powerful out of all the Primordial Waters." Ma Zhi laughed, "For this thing to land in your hands is only a violation of its powers. Just hand it over to me!"

Ma Zhi, who was holding the fort for his fellow sect members, suddenly wielded his hand and charged towards Yang Qing like a hurricane.

Yang Qing gritted his teeth and controlled the Grand Moon Primordial Water. Using water to resist water, he formed a water wall using a large amount of water to act as a barrier for himself.

The hurricane crashed into the water wall, causing the water wall to crumble. But it still managed to stubbornly block off the attack of the hurricane.

Ma Zhi laughed and conjured a spell. Immediately, a formless and shadowless Nine Heaven Formless Squall punched out and broke open the water wall in an instant.

At this moment, Yang Qing was already seeing stars, but he still hung on. He whispered to himself and his palms were fixed together. A large amount of jade-green Grand Moon Primordial Water sprayed out and resisted the Nine Heaven Formless Squall.

The extremely sharp Nine Heaven Formless Squall caused the jade-green water flow to break into fragmented pieces. However, while the jade-green water flowed separated, it did not land on the ground. In a blink of an eye, the water flow reorganized into a new shape and continued to disintegrate the Nine Heaven Formless Squall.

As Ma Zhi saw this, his eyes displayed a greater sense of

greediness within it. "The Grand Moon Primordial Water is definitely some good stuff. But what a pity, it still cannot protect you."

Yang Qing was bitter. His cultivation was lacking compared to Ma Zhi and he was unable to command more of the Primordial Waters. It was already the end of the crossbow and he was soon to be defeated by Ma Zhi's Nine Heaven Formless Squall.

"The Grand Moon Primordial Water cannot protect him, but I can."

A voice suddenly resonated from space. It came from all directions as if it was everywhere. Ma Zhi was shocked. Before he could even react, the Nine Heaven Formless Squall suddenly disappeared.

Ma Zhi was extremely stunned. As he turned his head around, he saw an indifferent young man, dressed in purple and sitting on the back of a Feilian, descending from the sky.

"Foundation Establishment Stage?" Ma Zhi's brows creased and he looked at the Feilian more carefully. His face changed color, "This is the Feilian from my Aeolus Sect, why is it in your hands?"

The young man in purple was Wang Lin. He ignored Ma Zhi and commanded the Feilian to land beside Yang Qing.

Yang Qing's consciousness was blurry but the impression that

Lin Feng and his disciple left on him at Mount Kunlun was unforgettable.

In his blurry state, he recognized Wang Lin, "You are Elder Lin's disciple?"

Wang Lin said, "Come up, my master wants to see you."

Before Yang Qing could reply, Ma Zhi interrupted, "Who are you, how dare you interfere in the matters of the Aeolus Sect? Also, where did this Feilian come from?"

A layer of understanding suddenly appeared in his eyes, "Half a year ago, Liefeng felt that the Feilian that he had given to his missing disciple had appeared at the north foot of Mount Kunlun. He went on to search for it, but suddenly news of him disappeared. Did you do it?"

"Who exactly are you people?"

"You are not here to interrogate Yang Qing regarding news of my Celestial Sect?" Lin Feng's voice resonated in space. "I am the leader of the Celestial Sect, Lin Feng."

"As for the Liefeng Taoist, he trespassed into the cave of our sect and has been killed by me."

Ma Zhi furiously shouted, "So it was really the doing of all of you!"

Lin Feng's voice was neutral and without emotions. He replied in space, "The Aeolus Sect seems to have some motive against my sect, tell me, what are you all planning to do?"

Ma Zhi hmphe and knew that he was unable to catch Yang Qing today, but he was also unwillingly to give up. He thought to himself, "It seems like this Celestial Sect of Wonders is somewhere near Lingyun Peak. I will quickly report to my master and return another day to this scene."

As he was thinking, Ma Zhi suddenly realized that Purple Clouds started to surface and surround them, trapping everyone inside.

"This is not good!" Ma Zhi's expression changed, as he released his Nine Heaven Formless Squall to destroy the Purple Clouds.

But as the Purple shrouded all of them, it secretly contained some form of Spatial Mystery that dissolved Ma Zhi's Nine Heaven Formless Squall.

After Wang Lin helped Yang Qing up the Feilian, he jumped off the back off the Feilian. Seeing Ma Zhi, he started to attack without even speaking a word.

He used both his hands to conjure up a spell and a black-yellow path emerged from within the Purple Clouds. It was dark and mysterious. Indeed, it was the Road to River Styx.

Numerous cultivators of the Aeolus Sect landed on the path and they were immediately attacked by the Power of Samsara, causing their souls to become unstable.

A portion of the cultivators who were in the Foundation Establishment Stage were forcefully dragged into the path by the countless bones and claws emerging from the path.

These cultivators who were attacked did not resist. Rather, they looked at a loss and their pupils seemed to show countless images of debris.

They were all attacked by the Power of Samsara, causing their mind to be confused. They alternated between the innumerable memories of the past and present. Such a huge amount of information bombarding them caused them to be unable to focus their attention to think, which naturally led them to be helpless against the attacking bones and claws.

As a cultivator in the Aurous Core Stage, Ma Zhi was able to maintain the stability of his soul and overcome the barrier to death. The impact on him was remarkably lesser. He looked at Wang Lin, "What spell is this? It was extremely aggressive against cultivators in the Foundation Establishment Stage."

But Ma Zhi also chuckled in his heart, "Looking at you, as the leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, you will not have done this through your own hands. All you did was to trap us, but let your disciple do the dirty deed."

"I will capture your disciple and force you to set us a path to escape."

At this point, Ma Zhi was full of energy. He fixated his palms together and let out the Nine Heaven Formless Squall, which cut sharply on the Road to River Styx.

Ferocious and sharp, the all-conquering squall destroyed the Road to River Styx.

Wang Lin creased his brows, "Against a cultivator in the Aurous Core Stage, there is no more room for courtesy." After saying this, Wang Lin's body was filled with a blanket of black gas.

An extremely ominous and frightening aura blanketed the entire area of the Purple Clouds. A disastrous and destructive power concept surged out, seemingly to destroy everything.

"What is this power?" Ma Zhi was slightly shocked, but was still contemptuous, "Regardless of the power, it is still only in the Foundation Establishment Stage."

He controlled the Nine Heaven Formation Squall, ferociously aiming it on the forehead of Wang Lin.

Wang Lin creepily laughed and flipped his palms. A light circle floated in space and released a bright radiance on his forehead.

"Zz..zz..zz..zz" A screeching electric sound resonated and

countless white lightning rays emerged from the light circle before rapidly expanding into a large boundary. It was like a bowl in a reverse position on the ground, protecting Wang Lin who was within it.

At the same time, Wang Lin rushed towards Ma Zhi with his finger pointing out.

Ma Zhi had an ominous feeling about it, but before he could hide, a large amount of black, deadly spiritual energy appeared within a ten feet radius of him and surrounded him.

Celestial Finger of Styx! The Finger of Destruction!

After Wang Lin had successfully established his foundation, the power of his Finger of Destruction rose tremendously. Now that he has entered the destructive stage of the River of Styx, the black and deadly spiritual energy was infused into the power of the destruction.

The Finger of Destruction of today was the true and original version.

It was no longer to kill someone but to totally remove all its targets and reduce them to nothingness.

Ma Zhi felt threatened, but he continued to command the Nine Heaven Formation Squall, wanting to take the first step to kill Wang Lin.

At this point, he felt a huge threat towards himself. He had already forgotten the plan to capture someone as a hostage and was hoping to kill the extremely fearful Wang Lin in front of him.

The sharp Nine Heaven Formation Squall cut at the balls of lightning rays, generating countless electrical sparks, but it did not really overcome the lightning rays.

Ma Zhi stared, "Magic Item from the Aurous Core Stage? And the most top-notch one?"

Under the attack of the Nine Heaven Formation Squall, the surface of the light boundaries of the Dual Polarity Circle greatly twisted and countless white light rays circulated on the top of it and destroyed the attack of the Nine Heaven Formation Squall. This prevented the Nine Heaven Formation Squall from taking another step towards the lightning pool.

Under the protection of the Dual Polarity Circle, Wang Lin was untouchable. Ma Zhi was in trouble as he was under the attack of black and deadly gas that contained destructive powers.

The deadly spiritual energy from before only eroded the life within creatures. But the deadly spiritual energy now was extremely dominant. It just needed an instant to destroy the protective mana of Ma Zhi.

Ma Zhi screamed in terror and bore the pain. He wielded out a small flag and the small flag instantly shot out 7, 8 streaks of the

Nine Heaven Formation Squall, roaringly breaching through the deadly gas by Wang Lin.

After emerging from the deadly gas, Ma Zhi looked at the Dual Polarity Circle with a lingering fear. Wang Lin had a powerful Magic Item protecting him. He could accept that, but the Finger of Destruction attack on him was something he did not expect.

If it were not for the Nine Heaven Formation Squall, Ma Zhi's skin would have been torn out even if he had not perished. And this was even based on the fact that he was a cultivator in the Aurous Core Stage.

He learnt his lesson this time. The Nine Heaven Formation Squall was not to be used to attack Wang Lin, but to protect himself. In this way, even though Wang Lin's Finger of Destruction could be performed in alternate space, its effect would not be present.

The deadly gas space had just taken shape before being torn apart by the Nine Heaven Formation Squall.

The only thing was, in this way, Ma Zhi could no longer threaten Wang Lin. He was feeling even more dejected, "If I gather all the squalls to attack, I may have a chance to break through his defense. In that way, I will no longer be threatened by his mantra."

"To exchange my life with a small fry in the Foundation Establishment Stage is not worth it"

Looking at Wang Lin, Ma Zhi developed a chilling thought, "If the disciple is already so vicious, what even scarier monster is the master?"

The battle entered a stalemate. Both parties were unable to decide what to do with the other party.

Wang Lin creased his brows, "It was as master had said, these destructive powers are a burden to myself. In the short term, it may be fine, but if I enter the Destructive stage of the River of Styx for too long, my body will feel uncomfortable. If I continue to fight on like this, it will be to my disadvantage."

Chapter 203: Everything Except One Has Been Prepared

As the battle with Ma Zhi entered a stalemate, Wang Lin was strategizing while thinking to himself, "A cultivator in the Aurous Core Stage is definitely not easy to kill. If I erect a spiritual altar, I may have a higher chance of winning."

After sparring with a cultivator from the Aeolus Sect, Wang Lin enhanced his understanding of his powers.

In this realm, except for my fellow sect members, I am invincible."

The Aeolus Sect was the most prosperous sect in Mount Kunlun.

Although they cannot be compared to the 3 Great Holy Ground, they are of a higher level than the Intense Flaming Sword Sect and the Sword of Radiance Sect.

Their Aeolus Formless Mantra spell contained its own special traits and allowed one to cultivate the Nine Heaven Formless Squall, one of the Four Grand Primordial Winds. Its battling powers were extremely strong.

But when facing Wang Lin, the cultivators of the Aeolus Sect in the Foundation Establishment Stage were unable to fight back against him.

When facing Ma Zhi, a cultivator in the Aurous Core Stage, Wang Lin had his own way to fight against him. After initiating the Destructive stage of the River of Styx, Wang Lin was able to threaten the powers of the opponent. Under the protection of the Dual Polarity Circle, Wang Lin was even able to match up to Ma Zhi.

"If I reach the later stages of the Foundation Establishment Stage, even without the Dual Polarity Circle, I am still able to fight against him." Lin Feng thought to himself, "After I form the golden elixir, killing him will be an easy feat."

Wang Lin made a quick judgement, "For me to kill this guy will be pretty difficult. I have to take a risk."

As he stared at Ma Zhi, he suddenly made a move that shocked Ma Zhi.

Wang Lin changed his spell and retreated the light boundaries of his Dual Polarity Circle. Countless white lightning rays reformed into a similar shape to the Dual Polarity Circle in space. Under Wang Lin's control, the light circle changed into a white rainbow and attack Ma Zhi directly.

He gave up his Dual Polarity Circle as a defense and changed it to an offense.

"This rascal is putting his life on the line." Ma Zhi was stunned before becoming furious, "No, he has the protection of his Celestial Sect leader. When our fates are intertwined, his teacher will not sit

and ignore. At that point, the person at a disadvantage will be me."

Thinking till this point, Ma Zhi did not dare to hesitate anymore. He lifted the Nine Heaven Formless Squall but did not use this to fight it out with Wang Lin. Rather, he tapped on the rapid wind speed and quickly shifted to avoid the attack of the Dual Polarity Circle.

Wang Lin's lips revealed a smile but did not relax his stance. Besides the Dual Polarity Circle, the spells of Finger of Styx and Road to River Styx were released in an endless stream, forcing Ma Zhi to scurry around.

Lin Feng, who was standing on the clouds, was watching this entire scene and he also laughed while shaking his head.

Of course, he would not sit around and watch as Wang Lin face danger. If Wang Lin's life was in peril, he would definitely step in.

Allowing his disciple to undergo rigorous practice was not the same as letting him die.

But Wang Lin was not planning to rely on Lin Feng's power, fearlessly using a potentially life-threatening method to bully Ma Zhi.

Wang Lin's real motive was to borrow Lin Feng's presence to put psychological stress on Ma Zhi, such that Ma Zhi fought timidly.

In other words, Wang Lin was just using a psychological battle to attack Ma Zhi, so that he could gain an upper hand.

If Ma Zhi was really tough, Wang Lin did not mind sparring roughly with him.

Lin Feng looked at Wang Lin, nodding his head, "Wang Lin's practical experience in battle is not bad. In terms of practical battling experience, if both parties' abilities were not far off from each other, what determines the winner is mostly on the mental state, experience and even the adaptability of the parties. All these can be used to one's own advantage."

Wang Lin was fighting to his heart's content whereas Ma Zhi was oppressed to the brink of death. He abruptly put his heart to it, agitating all his Nine Heaven Formless Squall and rushed towards Wang Lin.

"Are you going to put your life on the line now" Wang Lin raised his eyebrow and the dreadfully long Road to River of Styx extended out. After that Wang Lin pointed at the Road to River Styx.

The Road to River Styx was instantly filled with black gas. The power of the Destructive stage of the River of Styx was put to its extreme extent.

The Dual Polarity Circle flew up halfway through space and drew an arc across space. Like a Divine Thunder descending from the Nine Heavens, the arc hacked straight towards Ma Zhi.

Under the command of Wang Lin, the defense by the River of Styx and the attack by the Dual Polarity Circle represented both defensive and offensive options for Wang Lin.

In reality, he was waiting for Ma Zhi to put his life on the line after getting too impatient. If they continued to grind it out, Wang Lin would be first to collapse.

But Wang Lin gave Ma Zhi too much psychological pressure.

But even so, Ma Zhi remained calm. He leapt into mid-air, controlled the Nine Heaven Formless Squall to change its direction and cut through Wang Lin's Road to River Styx and Dual Polarity Circle. It then flew towards the Purple Clouds which was enveloping the entire space.

This time around he attacked it from all directions, dazzling Wang Lin. Who knew that he was not trying to put his life on the line, rather he was trying to escape.

"I displayed a desperate posture and that Celestial Sect leader was too focused on his disciple. His attention on this Purple Clouds barrier was undoubtedly lesser, which presented me with an opportunity."

Under the guidance of the Nine Heaven Formation Squall, Ma Zhi's body abruptly shrunk until the size of a needle, which was thinner than a piece of hair. It gently flashed in space before disappearing.

A streak of light-green ray that was unobservable charged towards the Purple Clouds barrier that Lin Feng had created.

Even though the barrier was strong, Ma Zhi focused on his power on a dot, using the dot to break the surface, causing the power of the barrier to dissipate. It was eventually pierced by the light-green ray of Ma Zhi.

The light-green ray was like a slithering snake, meandering through the Purple Clouds barrier, trying to pierce through it and escape the heavy encirclement.

As the crucial ending approaches, Ma Zhi became more and calmer.

This action seemed to be reckless, but it was actually the result of countless strategizing in Ma Zhi's mind, trying to find the weakness of the Purple Clouds barrier. At the same time, he had to carefully avoid the besiege from Purple Clouds from elsewhere.

Although Ma Zhi's actions were completed in a breath, it could not escape Lin Feng's eyes.

"What a slimy leech." Lin Feng laughed, "The question is, can you escape?"

The Purple Clouds barriers that were initially like fog suddenly started to sublime and became solid.

This change in the Purple Clouds barriers made Ma Zhi feel as if the smooth path that he created was suddenly shut. It was unable to move, less meander its way through. Even if it wanted to twist and turn, it was unable to do it.

It was like a person swimming, who suddenly felt that the surrounding water started to turn to ice and leaving him frozen inside.

A bug being surrounded by a pine resin. After the pine resin had solidified, the bug who was still full of life was still trapped inside.

Ma Zhi felt like the bug who was trapped.

Lin Feng came before the Purple Clouds and looked at the trapped

Ma Zhi, frowning and saying, "That was my negligence."

Lin Feng laughed, "No harm, I will learn from my lesson."

Emerging from space, Lin Feng swayed his sleeves and collected Ma Zhi along with his Purple Clouds. After that, he went beside the Feilian.

Yang Qing, who was on top of the Feilian, was trying his best to keep focused. After seeing Lin Feng, he heaved a sigh of relief, "I am very grateful to you for saving me again."

After finishing his sentence, Yang Qing's mind went blank and he fainted.

Lin Feng slapped the back of the Feilian and the Feilian carried Wang Lin and Yang Qing towards Mount Yujing, following Lin Feng's back.

Reaching the peak, Lin Feng pressed his finger on Yang Qing's forehead. A majestic spiritual energy surged through the aura sea of Yang Qing, helping him to recover from the depleting mana and recuperating his soul concurrently.

At this point, Yang Qing's soul was on the verge of snapping, just like a piece of pottery with many cracks, only slightly away from being totally crushed.

Under the nourishment of a large amount of spiritual energy at Mount Yujing, Yang Qing's cracked soul rapidly recovered.

After a long while, Yang Qing finally awoke. After a moment of being at a loss, his eyes began to develop some focal distance and managed to see Lin Feng standing in front. He immediately flipped his body and knelt in front of Lin Feng, "My deepest gratitude for your benevolence to save me."

Lin Feng swung his hand, "You can only build something new after demolishing something old. Whatever is happening now is due to your good fortune and your ability to grab the opportunity."

Listening to his words, Yang Qing was fully awake and said, "Thank you, elder." Presently, he was very calm and focused on guiding the spiritual energy into his own aura sea.

A huge amount of jade-green water flow suddenly surged through his aura sea. It was indeed the Grand Moon Primordial Water, which became stronger after absorbing the spiritual energy.

Lin Feng's psychic sense peered into the body of Yang Qing, quietly observing the Grand Moon Primordial Water. His heart felt that the Scripture of the Great Heaven-Illuminating Sun, which he had just understood, corroborated the existence of the Grand Moon Primordial Water.

The Grand Sun Primordial Flame and the Grand Moon Primordial Water were arch-enemies. Both were extreme, but in the realm of life, the Sun and the Moon were always connected even if they were opponents of each other.

Lin Feng borrowed the Scripture of the Great Heaven-Illuminating Sun to gain a deeper comprehension of the way and concept of the Grand Moon Primordial Water.

His mind gradually guided the Grand Moon Primordial Water in Yang Qing's body, moving it in a weird rhythm.

Yang Qing had already obtained the Grand Moon Primordial Water for quite some time and had also gleaned some of its patterns and principles. Regarding the process of moving the

primordial water, his comprehension of it was able to fit with Lin Feng and supplement the lacking aspects, such that the understanding of the both of them gradually reached the same level.

At the end, mystical texts continuously appeared from the Grand

Moon Primordial Water and they congregated to form a scripture.

The mana within Lin Feng's body also followed the movement of the scripture.

After a while, Lin Feng's right hand conjured a spell and condensed a warm-greenish water droplet, reminiscent of a piece of jade.

"This spell can be called The True Understanding of the Grand Moon." Lin Feng grinned, thinking, "If I just supplement the incomplete parts of the Book of Nations, all the materials will be present."

He twisted his head towards the direction of the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World, Xiao Yan and 3 others had retreated there.

"There is only one thing that we lack now. My plan can be carried out smoothly. Right now, everything except one has been prepared."

Lin Feng looked at Yang Qing again. The Grand Moon Primordial Water in his body started to become stronger. In the end, he started to fly up in his own aura sea, establishing a high tower.

This was a chance to build something new after demolishing something old. Yang Qing grabbed the opportunity and under the help of Lin Feng, he successfully understood the true meaning of The True Understanding of the Grand Moon. He was now finally able to control the Grand Moon Primordial Water in his body.

"I shall help you one more time." Lin Feng grinned and pointed his finger. The leaves of the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree begun to descend and convert into a wisp of heavenly light, infusing into the forehead of Yang Qing.

Yang Qing's body jerked and the spiritual altar in his aura sea kept promoting higher and higher, one level and another level until it reached 9 levels high.

First-grade Spiritual Altar!

A First-Grade Spiritual Altar that was jade-green in color and filled with mysticism.

Lin Feng looked at Yang Qing and was also stunned, "Mm, it looks much more relaxed than the spiritual altar that Yue Hongyan had erected initially."

He whipped out the Talent Analysis Device and used it to scan

Yang Qing. He eyes suddenly stared straight.

Chapter 204: The Heavenly Classic Of The Way's Virtues Chapter 2

The 4 sections of Yue Hongyan's talent potential statistics were: 8 points for Innate Ability and Intelligence and the 7 points for Determination and Fortune.

Both the Innate Ability and Intelligence were 8 points, which was very rare. But she first established the spiritual altar, she would have attained only a Second-Grade Spiritual Altar if it not for Lin Feng's Black Heavenly Treasure Tree leaves.

Even with Lin Feng's help, her establishment of the First-Grade Spiritual Altar was also very risky.

And now it did not seem that Yang Qing's establishment of a First-Grade Spiritual Altar was very difficult. At least it was much easier than what Lin Feng had expected, up to the point that he was suspicious. Since when was it so easy to attain the First-Grade Spiritual Altar?

The Talent Gathering Camp of the Great Void Sect also did not contain cultivators who had all attained the First-Grade Spiritual Altar.

It was true that the mantra that Yang Qing cultivated was no longer the mediocre mantra of his small Cloud Water Cave sect. The True Understanding of the Grand Moon was a grade better than the Mantra of the Apocalyptic True Flame, but for Yang Qing to attain the First-Grade Spiritual Altar so easily was also

abnormal.

This led Lin Feng to subconsciously whip out his Talent Analysis Device to scan Yang Qing. After scanning Yang Qing, Lin Feng recalled that Yang Qing had its own sect.

But the Talent Analysis Device gave the Talent Potential Statistical Value of Yang Qing, Lin Feng was amazed, "What is happening? Yang Qing's sect is also in trouble?"

Yue Hongyan was like that, now the same was happening to Yang Qing.

Lin Feng suddenly felt guilty, "Don't tell me, I also hold the destiny of a cursed lone star. Whoever is with me will be jinxed?"

This discovery made Lin Feng unhappy. Although this might signify that he was someone of great fortune, being a jinx is not something to be happy about.

Especially when this made Lin Feng recall the label of "Destined to be alone", which made him shudder even more. "You must be kidding me, I do not want to be that way!"

After shaking his head, Lin Feng comforted himself. "It must be that I have some form of fate with the cursed lone stars of different places. It must be this way."

Discarding the random thoughts in his mind, Lin Feng began to

focus on the various components' statistics of Yang Qing. His eyes stared directly at the statistics, as he was shocked by the values.

9 points for both the Innate Ability and Intelligence!

Mother of God!

Lin Feng lifted his head to look at Yang Qing and his heart was in a whirl. "You are truly a prodigy!"

Innate Ability and Intelligence were both 9 points. Together they added up to 18 points, what did that signify?

Looking at the rest of the people would give the answer.

Xiao Bu Dian's Innate Ability was 10 points, Intelligence was 8 points, together they added up to 18 points.

Xiao Yan's Innate Ability was 8 points, Intelligence was 9 points, together they added up to 17 points.

Zhu Yi's Innate Ability was 7 points, Intelligence was 9 points, together they added up to 16 points.

Wang Lin...forget it. In front of Wang Lin, better not mention about Innate Ability, or else things would get sour.

Apart from them, out of the others who had great potential that was analyzed by Lin Feng, Xiao Zhen Er, the Empress of Xiao Yan's harem, had an Innate Ability of 9 points and Intelligence of 8 points. Together they added up to 17 points.

Yue Hongyan's Innate Ability and Intelligence were both 8 points, together they added up to 16 points.

Simply put, Yang Qing's Innate Ability and Intelligence that were both 9 points meant that he had a pure innate talent, even surpassing that of Xiao Yan and Zhu Yi, who both possessed the true destinies.

Lin Feng's stared straight at Yang Qing, "You don't reveal your true nature...following this pattern, your Determination and Fortune are also...wait!"

Fortune was only 8 points.

It could not be compared with Zhu Yi, but it was also not lousier than Xiao Yan, Xiao Bu Dian or Wang Lin. No wonder he was able to pick up the Grand Moon Primordial Water amongst so many.

But the Determination...was only 5 points, what does it mean?

Lin Feng looked at Yang Qing's statistics in a daze, feeling slightly down.

His burning heart felt like someone had poured a pail of cold

water over it, making him disappointed. Lin Feng lifted his eyes to look at the silent face of Yang Qing and he was unsure of what to do.

"Determination of 5 points, Determination of 5 points...." Lin Feng shook his head and laughed bitterly. Determination of 5 points was seriously off the mark.

This shows that the psychological aspect of Yang Qing had a big problem and he could not handle serious issues. When facing obstacles, he had a defeatist mindset.

And his emotions were easily fluctuated. For example, it was easy to make him angry, hurt and overly concerned about the opinions of others.

People with high determination would try to prove themselves to rebut others who looked down on them.

Whereas people with low determination would question themselves when others question them and become more unconfident and even feeling inferior.

Lin Feng recalled his interaction with Yang Qing. He had a friendly personality and was even soft. Some parts of him existed an unconfident and inferior mindset.

"Such a low determination will seriously affect his success in the future." Lin Feng sighed. Determination of 5 points almost showed

that Lin Feng would waste the potential of his Innate Ability and Intelligence by at least half of them.

If there were no further issues, Yang Qing's results in the future would be far below his expected success.

Lin Feng's looked at Yang Qing gloomily, "Both you and Wang Lin are opposite extremes."

Innate Ability and Intelligence of 9 points, Determination of 5 points and Fortune of 8 points. The total Talent Potential added up to 31 points, which was slightly higher than that of Yue Hongyan. But if both were allowed to develop, Yang Qing would definitely be surpassed by Yue Hongyan.

Innate Ability and Intelligence decided the lower limit, while Determination and Fortune determined the upper limit.

As the Spiritual Altar in the Aura Sea stabilized, Yang Qing opened his eyes and looked at Lin Feng. He bowed, "Your repeated help will never be forgotten by me."

Lin Feng put his worries aside and chatted with Yang Qing.

After learning from Yang Qing about his encounter with the Fire Crow Demonic Commander, Lin Feng lamented the ordeal.

After escaping from the Fire Crow Demonic Commander, Yang Qing returned to his own Cloud Water Cave and honestly reported

the incident to his sect elders. It was because of this that the news spread, allowing the Aeolus Sect to know that he had contact with Lin Feng.

Lin Feng sighed, "I burdened you."

Yang Qing shook his head, "How can I blame you? It was the Aeolus Sect that was overbearing and harbored ulterior motives."

Lin Feng replied, "What is your sect now?"

Yang Qing wore a sorrowful expression, "The entire Cloud Water Cave has been ruined. My master, ancestors, elders and all my fellow brothers have all faced trouble."

Lin Feng creased his brows, "It's also done by the Aeolus Sect?"

Yang Qing shook his head, "This is not the case. Before the Aeolus Sect, the Cloud Water Cave met with a big calamity. I was away during that period of time and this was how I managed to avoid the calamity."

He recalled, "At that point in time, I peered from faraway and saw a greenish fire appearing at the Cloud Water Cave. When I reached, the fire had already disappeared and the entire Cloud Water Cave had been razed to the ground."

"A greenish fire?" Lin Feng's first reaction in his mind was to think of the True Torch of Kṣitigarbha, one of the Seven

Legendary Primordial Fire in the world.

Talking about the various spiritual fires in the world, the most famous one that has a green flame was the True Torch of Kṣitigarbha. This fire was the essence of all earthly fires. Its color was light green and its power was almost limitless.

Lin Feng pondered while his heart faintly moved, "True Torch of Kṣitigarbha, True Torch of Kṣitigarbha...."

Yang Qing's tone was grieving and he almost shed tears. "I am collecting the remains of my fellow sect members before the Aeolus Sect came to arrest me. As I escaped from their hands, I was unable to collect and bury the remains of some of my fellow sect members."

Lin Feng sighed, unsure of what to say to Yang Qing. He was unable to speak words of condolences to Yang Qing.

After thinking for a while, Lin Feng sent word to Miao Shihao and invited him over. After simply explaining the situation, he said, "Please ask the Elder of Mirrors and Flowers to follow him one round around the Cloud Water Cave, so as to help the sect members rest in peace."

"You do have a good heart. You have not let me down for thinking highly of you." Miao Shihao clenched his lips as he laughed. Looking at Yang Qing, he sighed, "Also another man who treasures relationship. Okay, let me walk one round with you around this place."

Before leaving, Miao Shihao was serious for a few moments. As he looked at Lin Feng, he said, "The leader of the Aeolus Sect is already someone who has attained immortality. Although he has retreated without interfering into matters for some time, he will be alarmed if something happens to Aeolus Sect. Do not forget about him."

Lin Feng grinned and nodded without saying a word, as he watched Miao Shihao and Yang Qing left.

Suddenly, Lin Feng had a feeling, looking surprisingly in the direction of the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World.

The prompting system also sounded at the same time.

"Congratulations to the host's immediate disciple, Shi Tianhao, for his promotion to the Aurous Core Stage."

"Congratulations to the host's immediate disciple, Zhu Yi, for his promotion to the Aurous Core Stage."

"As half of the host's immediate disciples have successfully formed the golden elixir, a system reward will be specially given to the host. His current mantra cultivation will be promoted to a small realm."

Lin Feng laughed, "Waiting for you!"

In an instant, Lin Feng felt a streak of Negative Wind spiraling above his head.

The middle phase of the Aurous Core Stage promoted to the late stage of the Aurous Core Stage had caused the Tribulations of the Yin Wind to come!

The cultivator transcended the violent movement of the gathered spiritual energy, converting it to Negative Wind. The Negative Wind blew directly from the top of the Baihui acupoint, causing the soul to leave the body. Unable to resist its power, the soul is eventually blown away like dust.

But at this moment, Lin Feng only felt that the Negative Wind on top of his head was like a breeze blowing. Although it was ferocious, it was unable to leave any signs of it in Lin Feng's mind.

At this moment, his expression was mild, as if the Negative Wind did not exist. The purplish-golden jade pill in his body was flashing and the Negative Wind surrounded and circle around it.

Tribulations of the Yin Fire was to burn off the impurities of the golden elixir, while the Tribulations of the Yin Wind was to remove the surface flaws of the golden elixir.

After going through both of these obstacles, the golden elixir of the cultivator could reach the perfect realm and prepare for the Soul Formation.

Lin Feng's soul startled and he opened his eyes. In a blink of an eye, time seemed to elapse for millions of years. The Negative Wind that surrounded the body became peaceful in an instant. Both time and space froze at this instant.

In the next instant, the ferocious and dark wind storm had already returned to the natural heavenly spiritual energy. There was no transition of time and process, but it revealed a taste of nature, as if the logic of the heavens and earth was supposed to be that way and that it had never been as natural as that before.

Lin Feng peacefully took an inner look at his golden elixir. It was dripping with a piece of a jade pill, flashing a purplish radiance. On the surface, it did not seem to have any flaws.

The late stage of the Aurous Core Stage had been completed!

At this point, Lin Feng heard a new prompt from the prompting system, "Please allow the host to choose a reference for the foundation mantra and create the 'The Heavenly Classic of the Way's Virtues' second chapter, 'The Four Appearances Articles'

As Lin Feng heard it, he laughed.

Chapter 205: In Half A Year's Time, Open The Doors And Accept Disciples

Lin Feng's mind entered the system. In the Mantra Creation System, the skies were dark and the Eight different scenes: Heaven, Earth, Wind, Thunder, Water, Fire, Mountain and Pond, were set up in eight different positions.

And above the Image of the Eight Trigrams were Earth, Water, Fire and Wind, which combined in space to become a ball that continually intertwined and vibrated.

Within it, an evil aura that could create immense chaos was released.

Redefining the fortunes of the Earth, Water, Fire and Wind could improve stability and bring the rotation of the Earth back to the orthodox track." Lin Feng understood that in his heart and quietly thought of a mantra immediately.

Initially, the mantra that he thought of was the treasure of the Aeolus Sect, the Aeolus Formless Mantra.

After continuously catching Gao Fan, Zhang Sen and other Aeolus Sect members, as well as swallowing the aurous core of the Liefeng Priest, Lin Feng had already attained the entire Aeolus Formless Mantra.

This mantra contained the abhijna to cultivate the Nine Heaven

Formless Squall, which was considered one of the top powers in the Wind mantras. It far exceeded the Heavenly Winds Scriptures that Lin Feng infused when he first created the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams.

As expected, after providing the Aeolus Formless Mantra to the system, the hurricane in space rapidly became more peaceful and settled down.

"After that is Fire." Lin Feng thought of the Scripture of the Great Heaven-Illuminating Sun, which could give the Grand Sun Primordial Flame after cultivation. This was also the top-notch power in the Fire mantras.

After the Scripture of the Great Heaven-Illuminating Sun, it was closely followed by the True Understanding of the Grand Sun, which was just comprehended by Lin Feng. As mantras that could cultivate the Grand Moon Primordial Water, the True Understanding of the Grand Sun and the Great Heaven-Illuminating Sun were equally powerful.

After deliberating over these two forms of mantras, the Water and Fire images that were mixed up had stabilized.

At this moment, there was only one image left in space, Earth, which was still left in chaos.

Lin Feng breathed deeply, retracting his consciousness from the system. He took out the Book of Nations which he had auctioned on the seas, while also whipping out the Heaven and Earth mirror.

After attaining the Book of Nations, Lin Feng meticulously tried to figure out the powers that they contained. A very subtle similarity allowed Lin Feng to confirm that the Heaven and Earth mirror was cultivated by an elder cultivator in the past who cultivated the Heavenly Book of Nations mantra.

When the Heaven and Earth mirror was broken, the Book of Nations attained at the auction also had something missing. But if the two items were brought together, Lin Feng had the confidence that he could reconstruct the original look of the Heavenly Book of Nations.

At that point, the Heaven and Earth mirror could also be repaired.

After attaining the full Heavenly Book of Nations mantra, Lin Feng could successfully create his own 'The Heavenly Classic of the Way's Virtues' Chapter 2 'Four Appearances Articles'.

It was of higher power than the mantra of the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams.

"The basic requirements have been prepared." Lin Feng nodded his head, crushing a Voice-Projecting Crystal. In its radiance, the voice of the Pavilion of the Heavenly Trade's head, Song Fu, resonated, "Master Lin?"

Lin Feng calmly said, "Mr. Song, can you help me to spread a news. I hope that the entire region of the north foot of Mount

Kunlun will hear about it."

Song Fu replied, "Please say it, Master Lin."

"From today onwards, my Celestial Sect of Wonders will start to recruit disciples at Shazhou half a year from now."

"I hope that the Pavilion of the Heavenly Trade can help me spread this news. I will bear all the costs."

Song Fu was silent for a moment, before replying, "Master Lin, the Mount Shu Sword Sect, Sword of Radiance Sect and the Intense Flaming Sword Sect are all searching for news of you. They are trying to find out the location of your sect."

Lin Feng laughed, "No harm if there are fellow sects who want to visit, my Celestial Sect of Wonders will be there to entertain them."

Song Fu laughed, "Since it will be this way, I will accept this business request and I will not let you down."

After the communication was cut, Song Fu twisted his head and looked at Elder Tan, who was beside him. "What if the Mount Shu Sword Sect tries to restrict Lin Feng and his Celestial Sect of Wonders from progressing by offering us a larger sum of money to restrict any relevant spreading of news regarding the Celestial Sect of Wonders?"

Elder Tan replied monotonously, "Business is business. Firstly, we need to have credibility. Since we have accepted this business, we must finish it as promised. Even if the other party offers a higher price, we must not lose our credibility."

Song Fu nodded his head, "He wants to accept disciples at Shazhou, will that affect us?"

Elder Tan laughed, "On the contrary, I feel that he will be an important client for us in the future. The precondition will be that he is able to remain down-to-earth."

Song Fu also laughed, "I have the same thoughts as what you mentioned. Therefore, I will channel all the resources in the pavilion to spread the news for this Celestial Sect leader."

After concluding his conversation with Song Fu, Lin Feng grinned, "Mount Shu Sword Sect?"

He turned his head and looked at the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World. Xiao Budian and Zhu Yi had already emerged from the cave, with their mana being stable and consolidated.

At first glance, it looked like there was no Foundation Establishment Stage and there was a strong vibration of their mana, alike a smoke sea. But in truth, both possessed supernatural mana now and they were way beyond the Foundation Establishment Stage.

"Congratulations to the host's immediate disciple, Xiao Yan, for promotion to the Aurous Core Stage."

The prompting sound from the prompting system resonated in Lin Feng's ear and he laughed. After attaining the Scripture of the Great Heaven-Illuminating Sun, Xiao Yan retreated to the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World to form the aurous core. He started slightly later than Xiao Budian and Zhu Yi, but his speed was not much slower.

Inside the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World, there was a sudden flashing of a flame. A shadow flew out from it and a huge pair of wings emerged impressively from its back.

It was just that the color of both sides of his wings was different. One side was pure golden in color, while the other side was purplish-blue in color.

At a closer glance, his wings were in fact formed by flames and it was burning ferociously.

Xiao Budian, Zhu Yi and Wang Lin saw it and they were amazed by it. Zhu Yi said, "Senior, this was cultivated from the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire and the Grand Sun Primordial Fire."

Wang Lin nodded his head, "Looking at this, after senior promotes to the Aurous Core Stage, he can finally control the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire in the Nefarious Almighty Sword."

Xiao Yan kept the flaming wings on his back and landed in front of Lin Feng and the others. He greeted Lin Feng, "Your disciple extends his greetings to you, my master." Lin Feng laughed and said, "Good job, Yan, good job."

"You have not disappointed me." Xiao Yan smiled. Looking at Zhu Yi and Xiao Budian, he sighed, "It is a pity that you all are slower than me by a step. I no longer have a share in the treasure that master had promised."

Xiao Budian and the others all laughed, while Lin Feng said, "You are still okay. It is a pity for Zhu Yi as he is slower by a little."

Zhu Yi admired in his heart, "Master, you have not entered the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World, but you know the progress of our cultivation at your fingertips."

He was also a little regretful. Because of a weird change in the spiritual altar, Xiao Budian was later in consolidating the crucible for promotion to the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Stage. But in the end, Xiao Budian was the fastest to form the elixir, which was faster than him by a little only.

"Junior, congratulations." Zhu Yi lifted his spirits and congratulated Xiao Budian. Xiao Yan and Wang Lin also congratulated Xiao Budian.

Xiao Budian laughed loudly, "Master, where is the reward?"

"Don't rush, don't rush." Lin Feng said. "Firstly, let me see all of your aurous cores."

Lin Feng divided his supernatural awareness into three parts and entered all three of their bodies.

Three aurous cores that were flashing with a purple radiance appeared in front of Lin Feng. He heaved a sigh of relief, "Luckily, they are all purple in color."

After that, Lin Feng realized that all three of the elixirs had their differences.

Apart from the flashing purplish radiance, Xiao Yan's aurous core was almost transparent like glass. Within the interior of the aurous core were two balls of flames that were clearly separated. Each flame took one side and burnt quietly.

On one side, it was a bright golden color. It was really the Grand Sun Primordial Fire.

On the other side was a gloomy purplish blue color. An aura of destructive power concept emanated from within it, making it seem evil.

"Very good, with the purple pill as a base, the aurous core had a different image, which was of a better grade than a purple pill.

Lin Feng nodded his head, before looking at Zhu Yi's aurous core.

In the heart of the purplish light, there was a half-black, half-white spherical pill, as the black and white mixed in it.

Looking more carefully at Zhu Yi's aurous core, which was half-black and half-white, seemingly a perfect blend. Although they looked like they were combined, the black and white were clearly separated.

Within the aurous core, the powers of light and darkness were balanced. When mixed together, they supplement each other, as if there were unlimited potentials to grow.

"Zhu Yi's understanding of the way and concept of light and darkness is already very comprehensive."

The aurous core of Zhu Yi was also fine. At this point, Lin Feng had already fully let go of his worries. But as he looked at Xiao Budian carefully, Lin Feng was in a daze.

The cultivator in the early stage of the Aurous Core Stage had not experienced the Tribulations of the Yin wind and the Tribulations of the Yin fire, which would inevitably lead to flaws in the quality of the aurous core.

But the aurous core of Xiao Budian was surely too botched up?

The surface of the aurous core had revealed nine big, black holes!

Lin Feng was shocked when he saw this and was scared that the

elixir Xiao Budian had formed was problematic.

This problem was not something that was uncommon. Some of the cultivators had limited powers. Although they were able to forcefully form the aurous core, the aurous core was extremely brittle and full of holes. If there was a small collision, the elixir would break and the person would die.

"But all those were yellow pills. Xiao Budian had formed a purple pill, thus it should not be that bad for him?" Lin Feng calmed his nerves and observed it more carefully. This time round, he found an opening.

This nine-holed aurous core that Xiao Budian had formed was constantly swallowing and spitting out spiritual energy through the holes.

It was not a flaw in the aurous core that led Xiao Budian's spiritual energy to be dissipated out of his body. Rather, it was like the breathing of humans. He continually sucked in the spiritual energy of the outside world into the aurous core while removing the impurities in the aurous core from his body at the same time.

Xiao Budian's nine-holed aurous core could remove the impurities in his body without needing to borrow the strength of the Tribulations of the Yin Fire.

Lin Feng was amazed, "Good job, you are definitely special."

After checking the aurous cores of his disciple and making sure they are fine, Lin Feng was now able to fully let go of his worries. Opening his mouth, a streak of green light flew out and landed in mid-space.

The green light dissipated, revealing a small, three-foot crucible, which was Green Bronze Ding of Emptiness.

The Green Bronze Ding of Emptiness landed in front of Xiao Budian. Xiao Budian laughed and extended his finger to touch it. The Green Bronze Ding of Emptiness reformed to a green ray and drilled into his fingertip.

Lin Feng instructed, "Take your own time to consolidate it and meticulously figure out the power concept within it."

Xiao Budian laughed, "I got it, Master."

He stole a glance at Xiao Yan and Zhu Yi, laughing cheekily without stopping. That behavior was irksome.

"Rascal, are you aggravating us on purpose?" Xiao Yan jokingly reprimanded Xiao Budian and tried to catch him before he escaped. "I have not flicked little birds for very long. You are asking for it today!"

Zhu Yi and Wang Lin looked at each other and laughed. They became childish and went forward to catch Xiao Budian together.

Lin Feng saw that they were playing a fool and he also shook his head while laughing. His heart was tempted and his awareness entered the Ring dimension. He appeared in front of the small Taotie, Tuntun.

Tuntun saw him and cheered, "You have finally come!"

Chapter 206: Nothing Comes Free In This World

Tuntun stared eagerly at Lin Feng, expecting Lin Feng to understand what was on her mind.

Of course, Lin Feng knew. He smiled slightly, then removed the Heavenly Cage Mantra while retrieving half of the Gengjin Tiger's cadaver to be handed over to Tuntun.

The sudden surge of happiness overwhelmed Taotie.

Everything seemed too good to be true for Tuntun. She was hesitant and slightly doubtful and encircled the Gengjin Tiger's cadaver. She thought to herself, "Could he have poisoned this?"

Lin Feng looked at her in an amused manner, knowing perfectly well just what Tuntun was thinking. He laughed, "If you don't want, I will take it back."

Upon hearing this, Tuntun panicked. She quickly spread herself over the cadaver, dying to protect what she believed to be already hers.

"I am Taotie, and I am not afraid of any poison. Any poison can still be consumed by me," Tuntun patted herself on her head, "After being tricked by this dude so many times, I have become muddled myself."

At this thought, Tuntun felt rejuvenated and transformed into her original self with a sound that resembled a toddler's wail.

A human face with a goat's body, her eyes at her armpits, tiger fangs and human claws. With her current appearance, she was not in the least bit adorable. She jumped onto the Gengjin Tiger's cadaver and started devouring it.

Looking at her less than flattering demeanour, Lin Feng curled his lips, "She couldn't care less about the rest when it comes to eating."

Taotie's Heavenly Gift was indeed intimidating; despite being reduced to a mere wisp of a soul, she could still promptly devour the cadaver which was extremely hard in its entirety.

After finishing half of the Gengjin Tiger's cadaver, little Taotie started to show some stark changes.

Initially, a transparent soul, her soul started flashing blinding golden light, as her body seemed to be plated with a layer of metallic lustre that made her look impressively shiny.

She shut her eyes and hummed to herself while the golden light changed continuously and her seemingly transparent body started to acquire a corporeal form.

In the process, her body emanated a gas that smelled strongly of masculinity and blood, like that of a real corporeal body.

After a long while, Tuntun exploded into laughter, "I have finally acquired a corporeal body!"

With a quick turn, she transformed into human form. Now she looked like a little girl – strong, sturdy and solid, but feminine and adorable, much different from her previous soul-like existence. The Tuntun now gave off fragrance, and her complexion was so fine and perfect and soft.

Her immense powers seemed to flow through her body. Even though she was not a demon of the Demonic Lord category, she was as powerful as a Demonic Commander and was only a step away from forming the Demonic Soul and ascending to become the Demonic Lord.

Tuntun warmed her body up, then raised her gaze at Lin Feng. She extended her little hand, and said in a hostile manner, "Give me the Grand Sun Primordial Flame, and I will forgive you for imprisoning me. If you refuse, tsk!"

Lin Feng gave her an ambivalent grin, "You fool, you seem to have forgotten the pain you went through?"

He opened up his palm, instead of the Heavenly Cage Mantra, it was a purple gas that formed an independent entity, enclosing Tuntun within.

"I am unlike my former self!" Tuntun raised her volume, swung her hand, forming golden flashes of light resembling the tips of

many blades. It was Gengjin Tiger Tribe's Heavenly Gift.

These golden flashes of light landed on the purple gas but were unable to split it apart. Tuntun noticed that and twitched her nose, "Gengjin Tiger Tribe is useless, and pales in comparison to the White Tiger Tribe's, their ancestors, immense powers."

She opened her mouth and took a deep breath. As though her mouth was a bottomless pit, she sucked all the purple gas in.

Once the gas was in her body, Tuntun's eyes lit up, "This is some good stuff! It is full of life and tastes good! I can never have enough of it!"

Lin Feng snickered upon hearing this, "Nothing comes free in this world."

Tuntun was slightly alarmed and quickly realised that the purple gas she inhaled could not be converted into demonic powers for herself the way she always used to be able to.

While she was able to inhale all the purple gas, she could not digest it. The purple gas remained the same as it was, and was trapped in her body.

And as Lin Feng willed it mentally, all the purple gas inhaled by Tuntun immediately condensed into a sphere, forming a separate world by itself.

Tuntun stared through her body and could even see that within this spherical small world, a prehistoric era was at its inception, and everything was transforming incessantly.

Regardless of how she used Taotie Tribe's Heavenly Gift, she could not disintegrate this separate small world within her.

Lin Feng snickered again, "Be careful to not eat too much, it won't do you stomach any good."

New changes can be observed from the purple gas within Tuntun: all living things aged and decayed, inching towards complete destruction; the little world marched towards lonely destruction.

The spherical purple little world rapidly withered away, like a balloon being popped all of a sudden.

"This is not good!" Tuntun was apprehensive. She realised that the little world made of purple gas was breaking down and the entire world would soon be completely destroyed.

Lin Feng had used his magical powers to create the little world that simulated the disaster of the

Destruction of Heaven and Earth. It was a horrifying sight.

The power of the Destruction of Heaven and Earth was so terrifying that even if it were a simulation, it could make anyone

tremble in fear.

Tuntun did not doubt at all that if this little world were to break down and be destroyed within her, its destructive power could wreck her body entirely alongside too.

As it was a moment of life and death, the Lolita did not hesitate to give in. After all, she was used to it. Her demeanour became extremely natural, as she tried to solicit sympathy from Lin Feng, "It's my fault this time, please forgive me!"

Lin Feng laughed, "Why do I feel that it would do me more good to completely destroy you? That would save me the trouble if someone repays me with more evil deeds."

Tuntun curled her lips sadly, "You have shackled me for so long, and I can't even complain for a bit."

Deep down, she sighed continuously, "And I thought I could retaliate. Who knows he could suppress me with ease. It seems like even Mum isn't his opponent, and as he said, only Dad can

be pitched against him."

Lin Feng just wanted to frighten her to serve as a warning and to impress his authority on her, but he had no intention to kill her. He willed it mentally and halted the destruction of the Celestial Small Worlds. The purple gas reformed and left Tuntun through her mouth.

Tuntun watched him through the side of her eyes, with the gaze of a child who was caught by an adult for stealing sweets but who still eyed the sweets eagerly, drooling secretly.

Lin Feng smiled, "I have promised to give you the Grand Sun Primordial Flame, and I will not renege on my promise, so you'd better be obedient."

"You need it, and I am the one who is giving it to you, so you should be more sensible."

Tuntun was unhappy secretly. For all this while, she could always get what she wanted, and could even ask for more whenever she wanted more.

But now that she was in a disadvantaged position with a weak bargaining power, Tuntun nodded in an obedient manner, and smiled unctuously, "Yes, I will be, I will be."

How would Lin Feng know whether she was genuine about it?

But that did not matter, for she was ready to fight him if he did not keep his promise.

Lin Feng flicked his finger, the Grand Sun Primordial Flame appeared in front of Tuntun. Tuntun rejoiced and quickly swallowed it.

After she had swallowed it, she shut her eyes and got into a peculiar pose, a training stance exclusive to the Taotie Tribe.

Her little tummy rose and fell. Her Heavenly Gift was exercised to its fullest potential. When it came to the Grand Sun Primordial Flame, even Tuntun had to be careful to refine it before she could call it hers.

Ling Feng was calm and waited quietly for her to complete the process.

After a long while, Tuntun suddenly opened her eyes. Blinding golden sparkles flashed from her pupils.

"Dark Aqua Xuanming, you are not my opponent anymore!" Tuntun guffawed at the sky, feeling extremely pleased with herself, "This time round, unless you seek refuge at Xuanming Tribe permanently, I will find you and I will mate with you!"

Lin Feng coughed a few times - what he heard made him choke. Even though she knew the reason Tuntun wanted the Grand Sun Primordial Flame, to hear her say it out aloud so explicitly,

Lin Feng was torn between tearing up and laughing, he looked at Tuntun, "And that's all you think of."

After guffawing, Tuntun turned to look at Lin Feng and straightened herself up, "Can you release me back to the Barren Expanses? I have not seen my parents in a long time, I miss them

dearly."

Lin Feng exposed her true intention very unkindly, "You don't have to lie. You must be missing your Dark Aqua Xuanming and you want to forcefully seize him to do that thing right?"

"To mate, it is to mate!" Tuntun tried to correct him, only to realise a little too late that she should not have said that when Tuntun stared at her with an ambivalent smile.

Her toes tapped the ground and pressed against each other as she uttered with her head bowed low in embarrassment, "My primary reason is real because I miss my parents, and then, out of convenience, only strictly out of convenience, I will go look for Dark Aqua Xuanming..."

Lin Feng shook his head with a smirk, "You shouldn't be too eager to leave. Like you said, if Dark Aqua Xuanming sought refuge at Xuanming Tribe's place, your wish cannot be fulfilled."

"You must wait till you recover your powers as the then Demonic Lord before you can take any actions."

Tuntun panicked, "But it would be disastrous if Fox Fen that foxy bitch got there first!"

Lin Feng eyed her and laughed again. His laughter was an immoral and insincere one, as though he were the Wolve disguised as a granny trying to deceive the Little Red Riding Hood.

He sighed deeply, "Oh, what a pity! I still have lots of sumptuous foods here that I wanted to give you."

"For example, there are the Grand Sun Primordial Water, the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire, the Nine Heavens Formless Squall, and then there is also a third of the Gengjin Tiger Demonic Soul's essence..."

Before Lin Feng could complete his sentence, Tuntun leapt towards Lin Feng and embraced his leg, nodding incessantly, "I will stay, I will stay, I will stay!"

Once the Lolita was placated, Lin Feng's consciousness left the Ring Dimension.

At this point, Xiao Budian was still running and hiding at Mount Yujing to avoid being captured by Xiao Yan and his people.

Lin Feng shook his head without a smile and diverted his attention to the last chapter of the Book of Nations and the Heaven and Earth Mirror.

He contemplated silently and immersed his self in the state of the boundless power of the Earth.

The Earth was reticent, heavy and stable; it looked ordinary, but its powers were immense.

The Earth and the Heaven: the Heaven, it was boundless in its expanse; the Earth, it was the bearer and the supporter of the Heaven.

The Earth was seemingly ordinarily, but it could support everything, and accommodate anything.

Lin Feng suddenly beamed and touched the Heaven and Earth Mirror with his finger. A soil yellow beam appeared in the mirror and shrouded the last chapter of the Book of Nations.

Innumerable letters and symbols emerged from the book, but they were clearly incomplete, and many sentences did not flow. But as the Heaven and Earth Mirror continued to shine, the texts emerged more rapidly, and gradually they became complete.

Meanwhile, the Heaven and Earth Mirror trembled gently. On the mirror, an ancient and abstruse word slowly appeared.

"社!" (pronounced as "shè")

Chapter 207: Four Appearances To Unlock The Book Of Heaven

The word refers to the God of the Earth, concentrating the powers of the Earth. With that word on the Heaven and Earth Mirror, the device gives off an entirely different aura.

Lin Feng quietly tries to detect the changes within the Heaven and Earth Mirror. Suddenly he tapped it with his finger, casting the Dual Dimension Vacuum Charm.

The edge of the dimension to be replaced was located right in the middle of the Heaven and Earth Mirror. Under normal circumstances, if Lin Feng cast this charm, the Heaven and Earth Mirror would have been broken into two halves.

But at this point, the Heaven and Earth Mirror emanated a soil yellow beam, and condensed into an almost solid form, resisting the strong destructive effect inflicted by the Dual Dimension Vacuum Charm.

The dimension at which the middle part of the Heaven and Earth Mirror was located trembled like small waves for a long while, before finally returning to stillness. The dimension was not replaced whatsoever. The powers of the Heaven and Earth Mirror overpowered the Space, preventing Lin Feng's Dual Dimension Vacuum Charm from taking its supposed effect.

Lin Feng was not frustrated at all. In fact, a smile appeared on his face.

While this was definitely not the mirror's primary function, to be able to hold down Space demonstrates its inimitable prowess as a Nascent Soul Stage weapon!

After acquiring the Heaven and Earth Mirror that year, it was first repaired with the Galaxy Sand, before being strengthened with the Gaia Jade. Today, after being refined with the help of the Heavenly Book of Nations, it finally recovered its past glory.

"What an interesting device, " Lin Feng chuckled, turning his attention once again to the Heavenly Book of Nations.

In the Space, countless letters arranged themselves into order. Initially incomplete and lacking at places, with the help of the Heaven and Earth Mirror, the missing parts were filled in, revealing itself as a complete mantra.

The mantra occupied Lin Feng's mind as he tried calmly to memorise the mantra. Even though he was physically in the Vacuum, he seemed to still be connected to the Earth.

Lin Feng could feel that he was gaining in strength and power. He opened his eyes, "The Heavenly Book of Nations is indeed extraordinary."

Within the mantra system, in Space, the last uncertain element, the Earth, has finally been stabilised at this moment.

The Earth, Water, Fire and Wind – these four elements were all considered stable, the system reminder rang beside his ear.

"The number of types of the fundamentals reference mantra fulfills the requirement, let the combine now!"

"Mantra combination begins... Mantra combination is successful... Begin the creation of The

Heavenly Classic of the Way's Virtues, Second Chapter, Four Appearance Articles!"

"The second chapter of the Heavenly Classic of the Way's Virtues, the Book of the Four Appearances Unlocking the Heaven, is successfully created!"

An image appeared in Lin Feng's mind: space was in chaos, and amidst the chaos, it was suddenly shattered.

"Whoosh!" like a flame falling into boiling oil, the fire burned ferociously.

Initially just a small flame, with a blink of the eye, the fire burned ubiquitously in the primeval state of the universe.

Shortly after that came the sound of water, gushing out from the raging fire and shooting high up to the sky.

Concurrently, the soil turned. Everywhere was covered in broken pieces of soil.

The hurricane roared on with a deafening noise.

The entire primeval state of universe had completely lost its delicate balance, transforming into endless chaos involving soil, water, fire and wind. Each wreaked havoc in a magnitude that was completely unparalleled.

Lin Feng quietly watched the violent movements of the soil, water, fire and wind, as they became more violent with the passage of time. However, amidst the chaos, a peculiar balance was reached, finally from them all emerged a bubble-like object.

Lin Feng willed it mentally and the bubble quickly exploded. From it spurted two air currents – one clear the other murky.

As soon as these two air currents appeared, the chaotic state of the Earth, water, fire and wind was finally ended as calmness was restored. The clear current gradually rose, while the murky one slowly sank.

The murky stream slowly sank, becoming heavier and heavier by each second. It condensed to form a solid base, transforming into the Earth crust, then into mountains, streams and rivers.

The clear stream gradually rose, further and further away. It was ubiquitous and capricious, transforming into the sky, then into the

stars, sun and moon.

The sky and the Earth were separated. A whole new world was born, just like that.

Lin Feng tried to contemplate the theory within, and was momentarily enlightened, "Destroy the Heaven and the Earth, separate the primeval state of universe, reset the soil, water, fire and wind, split the sky and the Earth, create the world – this should be essence of the Four Appearances Unlocking Heaven Book."

"Now, I can finally execute the last step." Lin Feng's consciousness left the System Dimension.

He had a gut feeling and he raised his head to gaze at the direction of the Space.

There, he could vaguely see the lightning flashing and hear the thunder rumbling. A specter of oppression and fear hovered above the peak of Mount Yujing.

"My Lord, I am facing my Lightning Tribulation soon," Kang Nanhua's voice rang beside his ears.

Lin Feng came to the edge of the precipice of Mount Yujing and stared down. On the precipice there was cave from which a thick and powerful aura emanated from it – that must be Kang Nanhua's handpicked place of residence.

"Focus on overcoming the Lightning Tribulations, do not worry about the other matters. I will use my powers to protect you," Lin Feng said, "This round of Lightning Tribulations, are you confident?"

There are three major tribulations at the Aurous Core Stage, and the last tribulation is the Lightning Tribulations. Once one transcended them, one could become a Nascent Soul. From thereon, one could traverse the entire sky and Earth, explore all of the Space, travel tens of thousand of miles, and live a long life.

The lifespans of Cultivators will be increased. Becoming an Aurous Core was another challenge that they must face. Once successful, they can live up to a thousand years.

To cross over from the Aurous Core Stage to the Nascent Soul Stage was another challenge. If one could successfully become a Nascent Soul, one's lifespan will be increased to 3600 years.

As long as the Soul was not damaged, the cultivator's lifespan would not change.

Living for up to 3600 years practically made one as good as immortal.

Yet, the Lightning Tribulations are the most dangerous ones of the three tribulations of the Aurous Core. Many warriors and heroes alike had failed at this essential challenge.

Having a formidable accumulation of powers, noble Aurous Core qualities, and strong determination are all essential qualities that one must possess. In fact, one must also need some luck to succeed.

To overcome the Lightning Tribulations, one must do it oneself, without the help of others. If anyone extended a helping hand, the tribulations would only become more difficult.

The Lightning Tribulations are completely different from the lightning powers performed by the Cultivators. Even if it was the lightning summoned from the sky, its destructive powers were still no match for the Lightning Tribulations.

The Lightning Tribulations were undoubtedly the most potent force in this world.

Not too long ago, Zhu Yi chanced upon an artifact used by a Cultivator to learn the Dark Mantra at the Great Hengduan Mountains. That person was a Cultivator belonging to the later stage of the Aurous Core stage, but because he could not stand against the Lightning Tribulations, he was directly struck by the lightning and turned into ashes.

Even though Kang Nanhua was well-versed in many mantras and was extremely skilled and powerful, Lin Feng was worried for him.

"My Lord, please don't worry on my behalf. If not for the fact that I am now on Mount Yujing, I would be only 70 percent confident about overcoming the Lightning Tribulations," Kang

Nanhua smiled and replied, "But now, I am 90 percent confident that I can get through this unscathed."

Lin Feng nodded, "If that's the case, carry on. I will do my best to protect you."

Kang Nanhua exited from the cave and sat cross-legged on a bulging spot on the precipice of the mountain. His mastery of the Ancient Mantra of the Flowing Sand of Ganges was at its peak now.

Without any forewarning, there was a sudden huge crack in the Space. A thick bolt of lightning

emerged from the crack, striking directly at Kang Nanhua's head!

The Lightning Tribulations was such that no matter where and how you hid, the lightning would still split the Space and find its way to you.

Cultivators of the later stage of the Aurous Core Stage had to discover the secrets of Space from the Lightning Tribulations' Space-splitting power. This was what many Cultivators of the Nascent Soul Stage had to go through to understand the secrets and mysteries of the Space.

Before Kang Nanhua, the Sand of the Ganges and the Great Chaos Primordial Water combined with each other, shielding him from the lightning.

His entire body shook violently as a result of the strong impact, but his heart remained calm.

Lin Feng could palpably feel the pressure of overcoming the Lightning Tribulations. Even though he was merely a bystander, he found it extremely frightening.

For a human being to face these lightning strikes is tantamount to an egg being crushed by a mountain – it felt like one could be deadly disintegrated any time.

One bout of lightning strikes after another struck Kang Nanhua mercilessly, yet he was like a reef by the sea, unafraid of the strong waves and cutting wind.

Before his Soul Formation, being able to witness the true colours of the Lightning Strikes up close was, to Lin Feng, an invaluable experience and that no amount of gold could buy.

While observing Kang Nanhua fending himself against the Lightning Tribulations, Lin Feng had a sudden thought, "When a Cultivator establishes his foundation, he must be indefatigable in his

pursuit, and unwavering in his commitment."

"To brew the Golden Elixir is to overcome the fear of death, attaining the enlightenment of the soul."

"And the Soul Formation, on the other hand, was a test of the Cultivator's mental strength. When faced with an impending life-threatening danger, they should remain fearless, calm and courageous."

To cultivate oneself was to disobey the laws of nature and to go against God-ordained fate. The ultimate outcome was not to be as one with nature, but to understand the laws of nature while

retaining our agency, before creating a world of our own.

Once enlightened about this, Lin Feng could feel his Golden Elixir turning and tossing, as his soul seemed to fuse as one with Space. He could sense that the Earth was watching him, and he immediately understood, "Am I going to face the Lightning Tribulations soon too?"

At this moment, the lightning strikes began to abate gradually. Kang Nanhua was as pale as death, but light appeared above his head and a shiny purple Golden Elixir emerged from the top of his head.

The Golden Elixir that Kang Nanhua successfully produced was also purple in colour, but he was covered in cracks and crevices, so fragile that it looked as though it could be shattered easily.

"Open!" Kang Nanhua remained as pale, but he was certainly delighted. He raised his head and blew at his Golden Elixir.

His Golden Elixir emanated light. Amidst the light, a shadow slowly emerged, and it belongs to the outline of a newborn baby.

But this baby sat cross-legged with his hands clasped together chanting the mantra. The Sand of the Ganges and the Great Chaos Primordial Water orbited around the baby.

Lin Feng saw that and thought to himself, "So this is Kang Nanhua's nascent soul."

Kang Nanhua called out gently, and the Nascent Soul above his head entered his scalp."

Lin Feng landed beside him and beamed, "Congratulations for successfully reaching the Nascent Soul Stage."

Kang Nanhua laughed, "All thanks to my Lord for inviting me to Mount Yujing. This could not be so successful without your help."

Lin Feng smiled while shaking his head. He did not utter a word. The truth was, he should be grateful to Kang Nanhua, for his experience would make it much easier for Lin Feng in the future.

Time passed quickly in the mountain. After spending some time recovering his powers, Kang Nanhua was almost back to his prime. With his formidable powers, even if he merely stood there, it seemed as though he could open the Space.

At this point of time, Miao Shihao brought Yang Qing back to

Mount Yujing. After Cloud Water Cave was destroyed, Yang Qing had nowhere to go. When Lin Feng was willing to let him stay at Mount Yujing, of course, he was more than grateful. After all, a beautiful haven like Mount Yujing was hard to come by.

One day, after checking the Calendar, Lin Feng called his four disciples – Yue Hongyan, Yang Qing, Miao Shihao and Kang Nanhua – to his side.

Chapter 208: Arriving In Shazhou

"From the 8th of May, my sect shall open its doors at Shazhou City and accept disciples."

Once everyone had arrived, Lin Feng said while smiling, "While it had been quite some while, there were some preparations that had to be made. From tomorrow onwards, I hope that everyone will follow me to Shazhou."

Zhu Yi inquired, "Are you making preparations in case someone decides to interfere?"

Lin Feng smiled and said nothing. From within his robes, he took out a bundle of talismans and passed it to a few people. They were the Talisman-Dollars he made during the Spiritual Conference of Hanhai.

Among Xiao Yan and the other three, each of them received 15 purple Talisman-Dollars and 150 red Talisman-Dollars. Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing were each given 5 purple Talisman-Dollars and 50 red Talisman-Dollars.

Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing were shocked. They did not dare to accept.

The purple Talisman-Dollars were Nascent Soul stage talismans. Each of them had the power of an attack from a Nascent Soul stage cultivator. While it was technically money, 99% of cultivators would not dare to use it. Instead, they would choose to hide it and

use it in crucial moments to save their lives.

Even the red Talisman-Dollars were equivalent to a strike by an Aurous Core cultivator. As both Yang Qing and Yue Hongyan were in the Foundation Establishment stage, these talismans packed an immense amount of power to them.

Regardless of whether they were from the former Covenant of Liefeng or the Cloud Water Cave, they received more Talisman-Dollars from Lin Feng than they had ever seen.

Lin Feng thought, "Those who come to Mount Yujing shall be disciples of my sect. How can I let you get away?"

Looking at the flustered Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing, Lin Feng smiled and said, "It's alright, just take it. I believe that our trip to Shazhou this time will not be smooth. For the both you, the talismans might come in handy."

He turned his head towards Xiao Yan and the rest and said, "Same for the four of you. These talismans belong to you now. How you want to use them is entirely up to you."

"However, don't blame me for not warning you ahead of time that once we opened up our sect, many people will want to join you as disciples."

Xiao Yan laughed, "Don't you mean that our disciples shall honor us instead, master? Why does it sound like we have to give them

welcoming gifts?"

Lin Feng stared at him with a quirky half-smile. "Oh? In that case, why don't I see you honoring me?"

Xiao Yan spread his hands and laughed, "Take from me what you desire, master."

Xiao Budian and the other three burst into laughter as they knew that Lin Feng was kidding around with Xiao Yan.

Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing looked on with admiration at them.

One should not refuse what a senior had given. Despite Lin Feng's easy-going attitude, Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing did not dare to refuse the gifts a second time, particularly after Lin Feng explained to them his intentions.

Yang Qing sneaked a glance at Lin Feng's immediate disciples, noticing that they did not mind Lin Feng giving the talismans to them.

Seeing that, Yang Qing was slightly relieved. Respectfully, he accepted the talismans as he thought, "I was already in senior's debt before this. Now, he gave me such valuable talismans. I must be careful during the upcoming trip to Shazhou so as to not ruin his plans."

Yang Qing decided in his heart, "If I can help in anyway, I'll do

it."

Yue Hongyan also relaxed as she accepted the talismans, thinking to herself, "Senior is truly magnanimous. For this trip to Shazhou, should anyone dare to stop us or block our paths, I'll be the first to get rid of them. There will be no need to trouble Xiao Yan and the rest."

Lin Feng looked at Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao and said smilingly, "I am not a rich man, so I can't afford to give the two of you anything."

Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao laughed. Miao Shihao, in particular, laughed crazily as he said, "Look at you, if you need help I have some money I can lend you."

After interacting with him for many days, everyone had grown accustomed to Miao Shihao's feminine behavior. However, looking at his appearance now, everyone stared awkwardly at the ground.

Lin Feng looked at Miao Shihao. His mouth twitched at the sides as he said, "There's no need for that."

He waved his robes and his Avatar of Ares appeared next to him. Lin Feng spoke, "I still have something to attend to here, so my Avatar shall head with you to Shazhou."

Everyone nodded their heads in agreement. Lin Feng's Avatar of Ares growled quietly, "Let us move."

The purple clouds encircled them and brought the six of them through the void and away from Mount Yujing. Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao followed tightly behind.

Looking at them go, Lin Feng sat cross-legged on top of the mountain as he said, "Let us begin. While we have limited time, stress too can be a form of motivation."

Exiting the void, the Avatar released Xiao Yan, Zhu Yi and Xiao Budian to let them fly on their own while carrying Wang Lin, Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing.

Xiao Yan and Xiao Budian were like two wild horses free from their restraints. They enveloped themselves in two rays of golden light and charged towards the northern horizon at lightning speed.

Zhu Yi looked at them while shaking his heads, "They are almost going to become masters. How can one feel relaxed about entrusting them with such responsibility?"

Lin Feng smiled and said, "It's alright. Your Little Junior is after all still young. I am not even sure if he would get any disciple this time round. As for Xiao Yan, while he is playful, but before others, he will not disappoint."

He looked at Zhu Yi and continued, "To be a master is a trial for you guys too. On one hand, it's psychological training. On the other hand, it's also for you to improve your mastery."

"If you only understand half the content, how can you teach your disciples?"

Zhu Yi nodded solemnly and replied, "What master said is true. I will take extra care in these aspects and I vow that I will never mislead my disciples."

Lin Feng looked at Wang Lin, "Wang Lin, you have already entered the Foundation Establishment stage. I know that you want to focus on cultivation, but like what I've just said, accepting disciples is a trial for you too."

Wang Lin nodded, "I understand. If anyone wishes to become my disciple, I will teach them patiently."

In the span of the conversation, the group had already reached the sky above Shazhou. In the sky, one could see a tear. Song Fu, one of the three executives of the Pavilion of Heavenly Trade, stood smiling in the space.

Seeing him, Lin Feng turned and smiled at Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao. The three of them advanced forward and stepped into the void, appearing before Song Fu.

Xiao Yan and Xiao Budian, who went ahead of them, paradoxically came up behind them. Looking at Song Fu, they wiped their smiles from their faces and stood properly behind Lin Feng.

Lin Feng's gaze fell on the old man behind Song Fu.

Upon seeing the person, Miao Shihao's eyes glittered as he smiled and said, "Sorry to trouble you, Boss Tan."

Lin Feng had heard Miao Shihao and Kang Nanhua mentioning about the composition of the Pavilion of Heavenly Trade before. With Miao Shihao's words, he immediately understood that the old man was the leader of the three executives of the Pavilion of Heavenly Trade. He was in his Nascent Soul stage and much more powerful than Song Fu.

Elder Tan's hair was entirely white. He had a benign expression and he chortled when he heard Miao Shihao and said, "I must come out and receive the master of the Celestial Sect of Wonders in his visit to Shazhou."

Turning his head, he looked at Lin Feng and said apologetically, "One of the other executives had been doing closed-door training since 10 years ago. Hence, he would be unable to attend your sect-opening ceremony. I hope you will not take offence."

Lin Feng smiled gently, "It's alright."

As they entered Shazhou City, they needed somewhere to rest. Naturally, Song Fu had prepared everything ahead of time.

What made Lin Feng happy was that in a span of a few months,

many talented young people had come to Shazhou to join his sect upon hearing the news.

Through the Talent Analysis Device, he gathered that many of them possessed high potential values. This made him extremely joyous. After all, the system main quest required him to accept at least 30 disciples with potential values of 25 and above into his set.

"Also, I had to be thankful that no other major sect exists in the northern foot of the Kunlun Mountains, other than the Pavilion of Heavenly Trade which is technically a commercial body."

His heart was content. When he chose to raise his prestige here, it was not solely because he wanted to build his sect here. It was also because of the ties the Kunlun Mountains had with the wider cultivation world.

As time passes, Lin Feng's official sect-opening day on 8th May approached and increasing number of wannabe-cultivators gathered around Shazhou City. Seeing that he almost managed to complete the quest, Lin Feng's heart was elated with joy.

While the potential values of many would-be recruits just barely passed 25, Lin Feng was already very happy.

What made him even more satisfied was that amongst the four component values of his future disciples, none of them was particularly low.

This was good news. While stunning prodigies appeared extremely rarely, he already had disciples like Xiao Yan and the other three. For his second generation of disciples, it was better to go for stability.

A sect needed exceptionally talented individuals as much as it needed steady and firm disciples to serve as its bedrock. The two types of disciples complemented each other, and only with both could one advance far.

As Lin Feng thought about it, a disturbing thought entered his mind. Kang Nanhua's voice sounded next to his ear, "Master, may I please come in?"

"Sure." Lin Feng was sitting cross-legged in the quiet room when Kang Nanhua opened the door. Smiling, he said, "A bunch of colleagues have arrived in Shazhou. They wished to join in the sect-opening ceremony as observers."

Lin Feng nodded his head. In the past few days, many cultivators came to Shazhou hoping to witness the ceremony.

Many of them came from the sects in the northern foot of the Kunlun Mountain. They were curious about the new and upcoming Celestial Sect of Wonders.

The number of sects that could successfully challenge the Mount Shu Sword Sect could be counted with one hand. Most of them had at least a Nascent Soul stage cultivator as their leaders. None of them had an Aurous Core stage one.

With their abilities, they were unable to affect Lin Feng much.

"This time, Master Wu Yunliang of the Ethereal Mountain Sect came personally. He is accompanied by his disciple Meng Chaoran." Kang Nanhua paused for a while before continuing, "I feel that Meng Chaoren isn't ordinary. He should be in the latter phase of the Aurous Core stage. While he is a far cry from the Nascent Soul stage Wu Yunliang, I feel that there's something extraordinary about him."

Chapter 209: Blocking Our Path!

The Ethereal Mountain Sect was located to the east of the southern foot of the Kunlun Mountains and bordered the Great Qin Empire. While it was no older than a thousand years, it was a wonder in its heydays, equalling even the Aeolus Sect.

However, in the months that followed, The Ethereal Mountain Sect infuriated the Great Qin Empire and was suppressed by it, leading to its eventual destruction.

While extraordinary figures had appeared before from the sect, the pressures of the outside world coupled with the internal struggles within the sect had led to its fall from grace. No longer able to compete for dominance with the Aeolus Sect, it was relegated to mediocrity.

However, despite its misfortunes, the Ethereal Mountain Sect still possessed one Nascent Soul stage cultivator as its leader. He stabilized the situation in the Kunlun Mountains and helped to slow its decline.

The master of the Ethereal Mountain Sect, Wu Yunliang, may appear to be no more than 40 or 50 years old. He had some white hair, and his demeanor was serious and unforgiving.

Lin Feng did not appear before him. Instead, he sent Kang Nanhua in his head for the negotiations.

In the negotiations, Wu Yunliang indicated that he would like to

meet with Lin Feng. Kang Nanhua concurred and brought him over to Lin Feng.

In Lin Feng's eyes, this made him wary as he thought, "Wu Yunliang is a cunning person. He probably has other intentions in mind that led him to initiate this meet-up."

Lin Feng turned away his gaze as he saw the middle-aged man standing next to Wu Yunliang. He was clad in purple robes and his expression was plain. He did not speak but just sat there quietly.

"Could this be the Meng Chaoran that Kang Nanhua mentioned" Lin Feng observed quietly. Regardless of the situation, the person appeared detached and uncaring.

Both Kang Nanhua and Lin Feng felt that there was something about Meng Chaoran that made him stand out.

He was like a volcano, and one that's located undersea rather than on the earth, to boot.

During negotiations, one could sense a fire burning under his calm outer appearance.

"He is quite similar to Kang Nanhua. Such a personality is not bad, but it invites tragedy," Lin Feng shook his head slowly as he thought suddenly. "Oh, has Yang Tonghui arrived?"

To meet his old friend, Lin Feng decided to head out himself. The

newcomer came in a blaze of azure light. It was indeed Master Skywalker, Yang Tonghui, of the Heavenly Master Sword Sect. Behind him followed ten plus people, all of whom were wearing azure apparels. They tied a blue belt around their waist and a longsword hung from their sides. This was the uniform of the Heavenly Master Sword Sect.

Upon meeting Lin Feng, Yang Tonghui smiled and said, "Sorry to disturb you, Master Lin."

Lin Feng smiled. The Heavenly Master Sword Sect was included in his calculation as it was a chess piece that could play an important role. Maintaining good relations with it would bring more benefits than harm.

Yang Tonghui and his entourage paid their respects to Lin Feng. Suddenly, Yang Tonghui said, "Master Lin, I've heard that some people were unhappy about your successful Sect-Opening Ceremony."

Lin Feng smiled, "Is it the Mount Shu Sword Sect?"

Yang Tonghui nodded his head and said, "From reports, it is possible that Master Lixiong will personally make an appearance."

Lin Feng's heart was slightly jolted by this piece of news. For members of the demon clan, they started off as Demonic Soldier, followed by Demonic General, then Demonic Commander and finally a Demonic Lord who possessed his demonic core. Afterwards, after forming their indestructible demon soul, they

would become Great Demonic Saint.

In comparison, human cultivators started off as Qi cultivators, before moving on the Foundation Establishment stage, then the Aurous Core stage, then the Nascent Soul stage and before finally entering the Immortal stage.

In the rules of the Grand Celestial World, an Aurous Core stage cultivator could call himself a master, a Nascent Soul stage cultivator could call himself a grandmaster while an Immortal stage cultivator would call himself a supreme master or a holy master.

Kong Chang's title as the Master Lixiong was due to him being the eldest disciple of the Lixiong Branch of the Mount Shu Sword Sect.

And Master Lixiong's master was a cultivator who had already entered the Immortal stage. At the same time, he was the supreme master over all members of the Lixiong Branch.

Cultivators in the Immortal stage were the crème de la crème in the hierarchy of the Grand Celestial World. The power they possessed was unparalleled by any other cultivator.

Upon hearing that, Lin Feng's expression did not change. He did not need any further explanation, but said softly, "It's alright."

Looking at this, Yang Tonghui smiled gently and decided not to

raise this topic any more.

As the two of them talked, Lin Feng received Miao Shihao's message.

"Master, I think I'm in a bit of a tiff here." While he was relaying a bad news, Miao Shihao's tone was laid-back and relaxed.

However, something that could trouble Miao Shihao definitely gave Lin Feng a cause of concern.

"Xiao Yan was bringing a few guys from Shazhou who wished to join our sect back. However, on the way back, he was stopped by some people," said Miao Shihao, "It appears to be our old friend, Yu Wanfeng of the Yu Family."

He stopped for a while before continuing, "Other than him, there was Master Cyclone from the Aeolus Sect and someone whom I did not recognize. However, he was rather fearsome."

Lin Feng replied softly, "Wait for me, I'll be there soon."

He turned and smiled at Yang Tonghui, before saying, "Come with me."

With that, Lin Feng stepped into the room. He looked at Meng Chaoran and Wu Yunliang, before saying, "I wish to thank the both of you for participating in my Sect-Opening Ceremony."

Looking at Lin Feng's sudden appearance, Wu Yunliang's eyes flashed. In an instant, he smiled and said, "This must be Master Lin. It is truly my fortune to be able to meet with you."

Without waiting for him to say anything, Lin Feng said, "The Sect-Opening Ceremony will commence soon. But before that, I wish to invite everyone to watch a show."

Wu Yunliang looked at Meng Chaoran without saying anything other. He then said, "Show us the way."

Without further ado, Lin Feng led the way.

Before leaving, he released a whole bunch of purple clouds as it wrapped up the many masters and would-be disciples saying there and flew with him towards the outskirts of Shazhou City.

On the way there, Lin Feng explained the situation to Kang Nanhua while informing Zhu Yi and the rest to rendezvous with Xiao Yan and Miao Shihao.

About a hundred li southeast to Shazhou, Miao Shihao and Xiao Yan stood in mid-air facing a group of people. Underneath them were a group of youths, numbering from 6 to 7.

Despite feeling the tensions in the air, the youths looked at the two sides in the air with a look of admiration on their faces.

Xiao Yan looked at the people opposite him, saying in a deep voice, "These people travelled all the way to Shazhou to join my sect. Why are you obstructing our path?"

Opposite him were the many disciples of the Yu Family, led by Yu Wanfeng, as well as a bunch of Aeolus Sect cultivators led by Master Cyclone.

Next to them stood a middle-aged man whose white robes were decorated with a whole bunch of calligraphy characters. However, he did not appear grubby or shabby. Rather, he gave off a strong mythical feel.

The middle-aged man in the white robes appeared extremely elegant but wild at the same time. He gave off a strong pressure to all around him. He was Mr Zhang Hai from the Marquis of Xuanji's household.

Despite Xiao Yan's questioning, the three of them pretended to have not heard it. They did not even bother to listen to the Aurous Core stage, Xiao Yan.

Next to Master Cyclone emerged an Aurous Core stage cultivator, who swept Xiao Yan with his gaze before saying, "Your Celestial Sect of Wonders is no more than a third-rate sect. By accepting these disciples, you are depriving more worthy sects of talents and cheating them of their potential."

He looked down at the many youths underneath him before saying, "I am the Premier Elder of the Aeolus Sect, Shu Xianshi.

Today, the Aeolus Sect is taking in disciples. All of you can join the Aeolus Sect."

Upon hearing that, Xiao Yan was so angry that he laughed instead. "Hur hur, you are undermining my sect in front of us."

Shu Xianshi looked at Xiao Yan from the corner of his eyes and said, "These kids have the right of choice too. They should be allowed to join the sect that they want. Are you going to force them into your sect?"

In his heart, he was gleeful as he thought, "My Aeolus Sect has a history of tens of thousands of years. For long, it dominated the Kunlun Mountains. How can your new sect compare to us? Any one with a functioning brain will pick us over you."

The youths on the ground looked at each other. Finally, they concentrated their gaze on one of them, whose expression suggested that he did not have a care in the world.

"What should we do, Liu Xiafeng?"

The youth called Liu Xiafeng shrugged his shoulders and said, "I've heard of the Aeolus Sect, which is apparently the premier sect in southern foot of the Kunlun Mountains. Before the rise of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, they could be said to be number one sect in the Kunlun Mountains."

Hearing his words, Shu Xianshi smiled before an expression of

displeasure crossed his face. In a solemn voice, he said, "Foolish child, even till now the Aeolus Sect ranks first."

Upon hearing that, Liu Xiafeng arched his eyebrows and smiled, "Not meaning to be rude, but despite you saying that I still choose the Celestial Sect of Wonders. That's the reason I'm here anyway."

He looked at the other youths and said smiling, "You too, right?"

It was apparent that Liu Xiafeng commanded the respect of the other youths around him. With his words, everyone nodded their heads vigorously in agreement.

Shu Xianshi stared at the scene before him with his mouth open in shock. He never thought that Liu Xiafeng would make such a choice.

"A mere third-rate sect can be compared directly to my Aeolus Sect? Don't lie to yourselves!" Shu Xianshi landed on the ground in that instance as he stared, black-faced, at Liu Xiafeng and company. His gaze fell onto Liu Xiafeng.

An Aurous Core stage cultivator did not even need to touch an ordinary person to kill him. His mere aura sufficed.

However, while Liu Xiafeng appeared to have cultivated Qi before this, how could he resist the pressure of an Aurous Core stage cultivator?

However, he remained defiant. Fearlessly, he looked at Shu Xianshi and said coldly, "Your Aeolus Sect may be powerful, but is it more powerful than the Mount Shu Sword Sect?"

By offending the Mount Shu Sword Sect, what benefits could it possibly bring the Aeolus Sect?

In that instant, Shu Xianshi was unable to reply Liu Xiafeng. In a fit of anger, he turned the aura around him into a cyclone as he charged towards Liu Xiafeng.

Without using any spell and relying solely on projecting his mana, he could rip Liu Xiafeng to pieces.

"Go back to the southern foot of the Kunlun Mountains, this isn't the place for you to do your nonsense," Xiao Yan's mocking voice suddenly sounded next to Shu Xianshi. In the next instant, all one saw was a fist that split open Shu Xianshi's cyclone, which came tumbling down before him.

Shu Xianshi's appearance was furious, but he was chortling inside. His objective was to trigger Xiao Yan.

During the Spiritual Conference of Hanhai, Xiao Budian's battle with the Mount Shu Sword Sect's sword cultivators had already become a stuff of legend. Shu Xianshi's underestimation of his opponents was merely a ploy.

As he appeared to have been beaten into submission by Xiao Yan,

he was actually well-prepared. His next move was his most powerful move, the Nine Heavens Formless Squall, which would morph into invisible blades, slashing towards Xiao Yan!

Chapter 210: Those Who Think Otherwise, Step Out Now!

Countless of sharp knife-shape squalls flew towards fearsomely towards Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan chuckled as he completely ignored the Nine Heavens Formless Squall of Shu Xianshi. He punched the space in front of him mightily, causing it to ripple.

The smile that was appearing on Shu Xianshi's face froze.

In that moment, he felt as if he was trapped in a building during an earthquake. There was a possibility that the very space before him could collapse.

"How could this be possible? He's only in his Aurous Core stage..." Shu Xianshi began contemplating this notion as he noticed that the space he was in actually began to collapse into itself. Black lines appeared in this space, blinding him.

Based on a single punch, Zhang Hai, Master Cyclone and Yu Wanfeng's facial expressions changed. Originally, they who ignored Xiao Yan at first were now filled with shock.

As Nascent Soul stage cultivators, they naturally knew that the black lines in space were not something corporeal; they were tears in space itself!

Xiao Yan's Crash of the Eight Trigrams was originally a supremely destructive force. After he entered the Aurous Core stage, his power was raised to a shocking new level.

The specter of death floated above Shu Xianshi's as he did not dare to belittle his foe anymore. Hastily, he summoned the Nine Heavens Formless Squall to defend himself. His entire body became a gust of wind as he retreated.

Fortunately, Xiao Yan was not actually an Aurous Core cultivator. The Crash of the Eight Trigrams could only damage space rather than completely destroy a portion of it completely. If not, Shu Xianshi would have been dead.

Xiao Yan's mouth twitched as he said, "Do you think you can leave?" He took out his Black Wind Flag and waved it as his entire body was covered by it. In that instant, he appeared behind Shu Xianshi.

Shu Xianshi was scared witless. "You dare..."

"Why not?" Xiao Yan smiled coldly as he punched again.

The space before them tore open again as Master Cyclone walked out from it. He commanded, "Young man, don't be too arrogant."

While Master Cyclone appeared to be a youth of only about ten years old, his tone was like that of an old man. The powers from his Aurous Core could be felt from his body. It was truly terrifying.

With a wave of his hand, a light wind began to blow. While it was no way as fierce as Shu Xianshi's Nine Heavens Formless Squall, it tore apart Xiao Yan's Crash of the Eight Trigrams instantly.

Xiao Yan had already known about Master Cyclone's true powers from Miao Shihao, but he betrayed no fear as he chuckled, "Little old man, the person who shouldn't be too arrogant is you."

Behind him, two wings made out of flames emerged. A golden flame, dazzling and blindingly bright and giving off pure Yang energy, covered half the sky.

"The Grand Sun Primordial Flame!" Zhang Hai and the rest exclaimed in shock as they stared at Xiao Yan's golden wings.

Master Cyclone's heart was taken by fear. His telepathically controlled Nine Heavens Formless Squall became a shield as it blocked the Grand Sun Primordial Flame.

This time, he used his true powers and prevented Xiao Yan's Grand Sun Primordial Flame from breaking through his defences. However, poor Shu Xianshi caught in his master's squall.

Master Cyclone's face was filled with rage as dozens of Nine Heavens Formless Squall destroyed the Grand Sun Primordial Flame charging towards them. Then, like a tempest, it charged straight for Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan looked at the squall approaching him with a relaxed and calm attitude. He laughed, "Master, I can handle this."

From the space came Lin Feng's voice, "Fighting with someone like him would only leave the both of you injured. That's not what I want."

As soon as the voice sounded, an old bronze mirror giving off a dusky yellow light appeared before him. Where the light landed, it was as heavy as the earth. Master Cyclone's Nine Heavens Formless Squall landed on the Mirror of Dusk's light and could not advance anywhere beyond that.

Despite the fact that the dusky light was repeatedly torn apart by the squall, it quickly regenerated and was able to firmly resist the Nine Heavens Formless Squall.

Wind and Earth are respectively the lightest and heaviest elements of all. In the end, neither could overcome the other.

The Master Cyclone's face darkened as he withdrew his Nine Heavens Formless Squall. Then, he saw Lin Feng walking out from the space, followed by Kang Nanhua, Yang Tonghui, Wu Yunliang, Meng Chaoran and company.

Due to the commotion, the other wannabe-cultivators in Shazhou who headed out to watch were shocked too. They left the city in tiny groups, and from a plain far away they observed the exchange of blows between Lin Feng and Master Cyclone.

Master Cyclone looked at Lin Feng coldly and asked, "Are you the Celestial Sect's master, Lin Feng?"

Lin Feng did not even acknowledge him as he said to Xiao Yan, "Take them back to the city please."

Xiao Yan smiled in response. Without even acknowledging Master Cyclone, he landed to the ground and with his mana, he immediately bundled up Liu Xiaofeng and the rest.

Looking at Liu Xiaofeng, he smiled and said, "Not bad, you're indeed a hard nut to crack."

Liu Xiaofeng could feel the power coming from within Xiao Yan healing his wounds. He smiled lazily and replied, "I just dislike the way they belittle others."

Looking at the situation, Master Cyclone's face turned dark as he bellowed, "Stop them!"

With that, he rolled out another squall. This time, Miao Shihao, who had been watching the fight from the side, parried the strike.

When Master Cyclone attacked at first, Miao Shihao hoped to take up the challenge. However, with the focus of both Zhang Hai and Yu Wanfeng on him, he could not afford to be careless. Now, with Lin Feng around, he did have to worry.

"Such a bad temper," Miao Shihao smiled coyly as his middle

finger recoiled and touched his thumb while his index, ring and little finger pointed forward. With this gesture (Orchid Finger) , he drew four squares in the air.

In that moment, a perfect rhombus-shaped mirror appeared in the sky and floated up to receive Master Cyclone's Nine Heavens Formless Squall.

The mirror dazzled as an exact replica of the Nine Heavens Formless Squall shot out from the mirror.

The two squalls were exactly the same. As they clashed in mid-air, they disappeared.

Master Cyclone's face fell as he said, "Miao Shihao, do you want to be like these third-rate sects?"

Behind him, Yu Wanfeng laughed, "This screwed up Celestial Sect of Wonders is truly shameless. It accepts all kind of people, even ladyboys like the Master of Mirrors and Flowers"

Yu Wanfeng looked at Lin Feng, and mocked derisively, "Or perhaps, this is your fetish?"

Upon hearing that, not only were Lin Feng's disciples infuriated, even the normally calm Kang Nanhua frowned.

The many cultivators from afar who came to watch the ceremony looked at Lin Feng and Miao Shihao with a strange expression on

their faces.

Surprisingly, Miao Shihao, who had just been insulted, was calm. Not only was he not angry, he laughed.

"Hahahahaha!"

Miao Shihao's laugh grew in volume. The very heavens vibrated from his laugh.

As his laugh's volume increased, the sound of his laugh changed.

In the start, it was coy and feminine. Soon, it became clear and loud. Finally, it became strong and masculine.

Throughout the laugh, Miao Shihao's entire frame changed. In the beginning, he was slim. While his face was ethereally handsome, he no longer gave off a feminine feel.

In that instant, Miao Shihao appeared to have transformed into a hunk, virile and energetic.

"As illusion becomes reality, reality becomes an illusion."

Miao Shihao's laugh suddenly stopped. He shook his head, sighed and said, "The mirror reflects off water like a flower as dreams are immersed in illusion. Life is like that, no? What is an appearance? Is it really important? Who can guarantee that what we see is

real?"

Here, his demeanor changed again. He was no longer feminine, but rather overtly masculine like Kang Nanhua and Meng Chaoran, calm and collected while being as moderate as a jade.

Zhang Hai stared at Miao Shihao for a while before sighing, "Master of Mirrors and Flowers, your Spiritual Illusion Charm's mastery has improved another level. Looking at you, you aren't far from the middle phase of the Nascent Soul stage."

"Thank you." In one sentence, Miao Shihao returned to his original demeanor as the slightly feminine and androgynous Brother Shihao. He smiled seductively at Lin Feng and said, "My improvement is thanks to my master."

Lin Feng smiled and replied, "I just prodded you in the right way."

Yu Wanfeng's face turned bronze green as he looked at Miao Shihao. As he was about say something, he saw Lin Feng staring at him at his heart missed a beat.

Lin Feng's gaze landed on Master Cyclone and Yu Wanfeng and he said, "I just heard someone mentioning that my sect is third-rate and not worth a hoot."

Master Cyclone said coldly, "So what?"

Lin Feng put his hands behind his back and surveyed his surroundings. He said calmly, "Everyone here is from the Kunlun Mountains. All of you can be witnesses here."

Wu Yunliang's heart jolted as he asked, "May I ask Master Lin what am I supposed to witness?"

Lin Feng smiled and said a single sentence, plunging everyone into a deep silence.

A short while later, the many cultivators threw decorum out of the window and began to discuss amongst themselves.

"This master of the Celestial Sect, has he gone mad?"

"Even if he's from the Mount Shu Sword Sect or the Great Void Sect, he wouldn't dare to say such a thing. This person is crazy."

"We don't need to say anything. Neither the Yu Family nor the Aeolus Sect will permit this transgression."

Even Wu Yunliang, Meng Chaoran and Yang Tonghui who stood behind Lin Feng stared at Lin Feng absurdly.

Lin Feng's words rang non-stop in their heads.

"Disciples of my Celestial Sect of Wonders are invincible against other cultivators of a similar level."

Zhang Hai stared intently at Lin Feng and asked, "When you said 'same level', do you mean that your disciples, who may be in the earlier phase of the Aurous Core stage, can easily defeat a disciple in the later phase of the Aurous Core stage?"

Lin Feng nodded calmly. His gaze swept across all the chattering personnel. Then he looked at the slightly incredulous Yu Family disciples and the disciples of the Aeolus Sect and laughed softly.

"All those who think otherwise are welcome to challenge my sect right here, right now."

Chapter 211: The Ferocious Xiao Yan

Lin Feng said calmly, "Anyone who does not believe that to be true, come and challenge us. My Celestial Sect of Wonders will accept your challenge without any question."

Yu Wanfeng was so angry that he actually laughed, "What an arrogant person! Are you not scared that your tongue will drop off from spouting your lies?"

"Even the premier Great Void Sect does not dare to say such a thing! Mount Shu Sword Sect's swordplay techniques are without parallel under the heavens and excel in offence but even they are not so full of themselves."

"Indeed, you are a madman," nodded the Cyclone Grandmaster while smiling. He looked at the group of youths behind Lin Feng, all of whom wished to join Lin Feng's sect. The Cyclone Grandmaster said to them, smiling, "Do you still want to be the disciples of such a brazen person?"

"If you still do not know when to control yourself, your destruction will soon be at hand. In a destroyed nest, there is no intact egg. It's not too late for you to change your minds."

Xiao Yan chuckled, "A Nascent Soul stage cultivator who can't even take down an Aurous Core stage cultivator. I think that your Aeolus Sect should hurry up and fall apart when there's still time. Waiting any longer will just be humiliating."

The cultivators of the Aeolus Sect were all incensed. However, upon recalling the fate of Shu Xianshi, as well as the Grand Sun Primordial Flame that Xiao Yan had used in his battle against the Cyclone Master, their spirits fell again.

Only the elder next to the Cyclone Grandmaster sniffed, "What an ignorant and brazen upstart! Today, I will discipline you."

The elder's body emitted a perfect aura and was obviously an Aurous Core stage cultivator. He stepped out from the crowd and gazed coldly at Xiao Yan.

The Cyclone Grandmaster's face was dark. He did not say anything, indicating tacit approval for the elder's actions.

Yang Tonghui became deeply worried upon seeing this as he thought, "By sending a late Aurous Core stage cultivator to challenge an early Aurous Core stage cultivator, isn't that just tacitly agreeing that your own early Aurous Core stage cultivators and middle Aurous Core stage cultivators are no match for him?"

His gaze fell upon Xiao Yan and thought, "However, this person here is truly ferocious. With only an Aurous Core stage mastery, he managed to control the Grand Sun Primordial Flame. Such powers exceed those of his equals." While he was late because he followed Lin Feng onto the scene, he still witnessed the battle between Xiao Yan and the Cyclone Grandmaster.

Wu Yunliang said quietly to Meng Chaoran, "Isn't the Grand Sun Primordial Flame owned only by the Fire Crows? I wonder if it was

formed through the machinations of the disciple himself, or through the efforts of his master. If every single disciple of their sect is so strong, then it is truly a terrifying prospect."

Meng Chaoran replied quietly, "The elder is one of the few strong ones in the Aeolus Sect. Furthermore, the Nine Heavens Formless Squall is one of the few Four Grand Primordial Winds and is no way inferior to the Grand Sun Primordial Flame. Perhaps he has a plan?"

Wu Yunliang nodded his head, "We shall see."

Xiao Yan looked at his challenger from the Aeolus Sect. Then, he turned and smiled at Lin Feng.

Lin Feng nodded his head. Xiao Yan's body shimmered, and in an instant, he was in front of the elder.

"Do you think that you are all-powerful now just because you possess the Grand Sun Primordial Flame?" The elder smiled coldly before his body moved vigorously. A saber glinted amidst the ferocious winds and made a beeline for Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan's eyebrows arched, "A cultivator specializing in physical martial arts?" He was not scared of his attack at all and received it with his Crash of the Eight Trigrams.

However, the elder's saber was as unpredictable as the wind. His swordplay was extremely strange and it changed constantly as he

searched for weaknesses.

Xiao Yan hated this type of guerrilla warfare tactics the most. He smiled coldly as he waved the Black Cloud Flag. His body was covered by a dark light as he moved randomly through space more quickly than his opponent.

The elder arched his eyebrows and said, "This magic item can alter space itself. It's more troublesome than the Grand Sun Primordial Flame." His saber changed again. While it was originally dark and hard to see, it now became virtually invisible.

The radiance from his saber dissipated into thousands of pieces and was distributed amidst the wind. Through his machinations, the wind became a giant cyclone as it enveloped everything within a hundred meters.

The elder waved his hand and extracted a large amount of Wind-type energy from the air around him and incorporated them into his cyclone, causing it to become even stronger.

Xiao Yan became increasingly wary. While the Black Cloud Flag could constantly change its position, it was still within the cyclone.

In the cyclone, there would be occasional flashes of saber radiance. While it appeared weak, as long as it managed to catch a trace of Xiao Yan it would shine brightly and the elder himself would appear in the next instant. The scattered saber radiance congregated in the instance and its powers increased greatly.

Xiao Yan tried to avoid them, but the saber radiance would scatter once again in the cyclone until it caught its target again. Upon which, it will congregate.

The elder's saber radiance congregated before scattering before congregating again as if it was following his will. Together with the cyclone, it was able to control the teleportation abilities of the Black Wind Flag.

Xiao Yan dodged the saber radiance again. He became increasingly incensed, as he smiled coldly, "Do you honestly think I am not scared of you?"

He lifted the Black Cloud Flag and as the elder's sword radiance found him, they congregated together into a giant sword radiance, cleaving towards his head.

Xiao Yan smiled coldly as he used his Crash of the Eight Trigrams again. However, he did not use it for offense. Rather, he used its defensive form as layers upon layers of destructive powers formed an endless wall and blocked the elder's sword radiance.

At the same time, Xiao Yan's Grand Sun Primordial Flame erupted suddenly as it charged towards the elder. The elder took out an item, which was called the Divine Flame Glass Shield and blocked the onslaught of the Grand Sun Primordial Flame.

Lin Feng suddenly became anxious as he thought, "There's really such a thing! No wonder he was spoiling for a fight."

The Cyclone Grandmaster saw this and arched his eyebrow. The Divine Flame Glass Shield could only withstand the attack for a short while. Before long, it would give way to the Grand Sun Primordial Flame.

All of a sudden, an idea struck him. He said slowly, "The Grand Sun Primordial Flame is owned by the great demon, the Golden Crow, and his tribe. How could your disciples be possessing it? Unless you are collaborating with the Fire Crows?"

Lin Feng smiled, "Who says that the Grand Sun Primordial Flame is owned only by the Golden Crow and his tribe? You're right, the fire crows can control the Grand Sun Primordial Flame intuitively, but it does not mean that the Grand Sun Primordial Flame is owned only by them."

"There are Seven Legendary Primordial Flames that were a result of creation. Those who possess the skills to understand the creation of heavens and earth can naturally use these flames too."

The Cyclone Grandmaster snorted, "It's easy to say that. But if what you say is true, produce another primordial flame for me."

Before he finished his sentence, he heard Xiao Yan's cough from the battlefield. Beyond the brilliant gold radiance of the Grand Sun Primordial Flame, a dark, purplish-blue blaze appeared too!

In comparison with the Grand Sun Primordial Flame, what it lacked in intensity it made up for in its cruelty.

The Cyclone Grandmaster and everyone else stared with their mouths agape. The combination of the dark purplish-blue blaze and the Grand Sun Primordial Flame bombarded the Divine Flame Glass Shield until it was reduced to nothing but ashes. The elder operating the shield was burnt to crisp.

It happened so fast that the Cyclone Grandmaster could not even save him.

The face of Mr Zhang of the Marquis of Xuanji's household became dark as he said, "The purplish-blue blaze. Could it be the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Flame, the most destructive of the Seven Legendary Primordial Fires?"

The Cyclone Grandmaster's mouth twitched as he looked at Lin Feng. However, Lin Feng had no intention of acknowledging him.

This made the Cyclone Grandmaster tremble. Right after he told Lin Feng to produce another primordial flame, Xiao Yan shoved the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Flame in his face.

What made him even more humiliated was the gaze of everyone else around him. A late Aurous Core stage cultivator of his sect actually lost to an early Aurous Core stage cultivator, Xiao Yan. It appeared that Lin Feng's proclamation that his disciples were "the first among equals" was true.

Yu Wanfeng's face was even more ominous. Xiao Yan's use of the Grand Sun Primordial Flame against the Cyclone Grandmaster had already changed his opinion about him. He knew that Xiao Yan

was ferocious, but he did not expect him to be this ferocious.

He looked at Lin Feng as his heart grew cold, "With such a disciple, how terrifying would the master be?"

With this deduction, he realized that Xiao Budian, who was next to Lin Feng, was in no way inferior to Xiao Yan.

Earlier on in Shazhou City, Yu Wanfeng witnessed Xiao Budian defeating a whole bunch of Foundation Establishment stage cultivators from the Mount Shu Sword Sect. However, he believed that he had received assistance from Lin Feng.

Now that Yu Wanfeng began to think about it, Lin Feng did not just suppress the mastery of those disciples to the peak of the Foundation Establishment stage. He probably did something else too.

However, looking at Xiao Yan's ferocity, Yu Wanfeng did not dare to think about that anymore. He stared at Xiao Budian with caution in his eyes as he thought, "As of now, he already possessed a terrifying amount of power. If he were to further develop his powers..."

Yu Wanfeng's caution turned into killing intent. Shi Tianyi was an important chess piece for the Yu Family's future developments. He could not afford any slip-up.

Thinking about that, he realized that he missed out something.

In only half a year, Xiao Budian had advanced to the Aurous Core stage.

Such a terrifying speed was completely unparalleled. Even Shi Tianyi, who was lauded as a prodigy by all, could not match that.

Yu Wanfeng stared intently at Xiao Budian and noticed that Xiao Budian's appearance did not change much. This was to say that even if Xiao Budian had cultivated in the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World, he used very little time.

Such a discovery made Yu Wanfeng even more hellbent on killing him.

Xiao Budian felt Yu Wanfeng's gaze as he turned his head to look at him. His tiny face did not show any trace of a smile as he said quietly, "What? Does the Yu Family want to have a go too?"

Yu Wanfeng did not say anything but looked at Lin Feng. He noticed Lin Feng staring at him expressionlessly.

The cultivators of the Yu Family glared angrily at Xiao Budian. However, upon recalling what he did back in Shazhou City as well as Xiao Yan's powers, they became crestfallen.

A middle-aged Aurous Core stage cultivator suddenly stood up and said loudly, "Don't be too brazenly arrogant, I'll challenge you."

Xiao Budian's face was expressionless as he replaced Xiao Yan on the battlefield. "Bring it on."

The middle-aged man looked at Xiao Budian as he coughed dryly and said, "I haven't finished."

Chapter 212: Truly Invincible

Xiao Budian stretched his elbows and legs and said expressionlessly to the challenger, "Bring it."

The middle-aged man looked at Xiao Budian as he coughed dryly and said, "I haven't finished."

Xiao Budian said impatiently, "If there's anything to say, say it now and quickly."

As the onlookers looked at Xiao Budian, who was only 11 to 12 years old, they were unable to control their laughter.

On the side of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, everyone gazed at Xiao Budian. Xiao Yan laughed to the sky as he thought, "Little b*stard, is this the only thing you learned?"

The middle-aged cultivator's mouth twitched, but he controlled himself as he said, "Your sect claims to be the first amongst equals, hence will you be willing to battle two at once?"

Upon saying that, the cultivators around burst into discussions without giving any regard to the honor of the Yu Family.

"Could you skin be any thicker? Why not use 20 cultivators to fight him?"

"He's still a kid. Let's not talk about you bullying someone younger than you. You now wish to bully him with a numerical advantage? What happened to age, experience and wisdom?"

"Is this befitting of one of the four great families of the Great Qin Empire? The face of the Yu Family is totally gone now thanks to you!"

While everyone was cautious about the rise of the Celestial Sect of the Wonders, they were still deeply displeased with the words of this middle-aged cultivator.

What's the point of winning if you obtain victory through numerical advantage? That would be such a hollow victory.

Even the cultivators of the Aeolus Sect, who were on the same side as the Yu Family, changed their perceptions of them.

The cultivators of the Aeolus Sect who stood closer to the Yu Family began to move away from them.

Only the middle-aged cultivator remained calm as he stood his ground. He accepted the derisive mockery of everyone else and he did not take back his words.

Even members of the Yu Family were shamed by the words of the middle-aged cultivator. They looked at him confusedly as they wondered why was their senior displaying such weakness.

Only a few Aurous Core stage cultivators of the Yu Family who were next to him remained calm.

The normally bad-tempered Nascent Soul stage head of the Yu Family, Yu Wanfeng, looked on darkly but he kept his silence.

His expression was noticed by Lin Feng, who took notice of it.

Thoughts swirled in Lin Feng's mind as he finally understood Yu Wanfeng's plan. He laughed coldly to himself, "Nice, so your plan is to forsake all dignity just to kill Xiao Budian!"

"You really do care a lot for Shi Tianyi, sadly, this debt must be paid." Looking at Xiao Budian who had turned his head to face him, Lin Feng nodded calmly.

Xiao Budian's expression was calm as he turned around and stuck out his finger. He pointed at the middle-aged cultivator and said, "You."

Then, he pointed to the bunch of cultivators behind him and said, "You, you, and you. The four of you, fight me."

The chatter resumed.

The four people who were marked by Xiao Budian were the four Aurous Core stage cultivators of the Yu Family. One of them was in the middle Aurous Core stage, while the other three were in the early Aurous Core stage.

Wu Yunliang and Meng Chaoran looked at each other, and the master of the Ethereal Mountain Sect laughed bitterly in his heart, "There's truly such a master and such a disciple."

"While others want to beat him up in a group of two, he finds it to be not enough. He wants to fight four at once!"

Yang Tonghui looked at Xiao Budian interestedly and thought, "He could rise to the Aurous Core stage so quickly. Did the master of the Celestial Sect feed all seven of my Celestial Elixirs to him"

"Earlier on in Shazhou City, in the little purple atmospheric cell, this guy managed to defeat all those Mount Shu Sword Sect disciples by himself."

While the Yu Family's original plan was to forgo their dignity to kill Xiao Budian, Xiao Budian's intent to challenge all four of them to a fight greatly incensed them too.

The leader of the small group turned to look at Yu Wanfeng, "Sixth Uncle?"

Yu Wanfeng took in a deep breath as he said, "Youxin, it's up to you now, don't disappoint me."

Yu Youxin, the middle-aged cultivator, nodded his head. He turned around and said expressionlessly, "Since you insist, then we shall not disappoint our family. We'll fight you together."

The three Aurous Core stage cultivators nodded their heads, and the four of them advanced to their respective spots on the battlefield, surrounding Xiao Budian.

"Rise!" Yu Youxin and the other three cast the Yu Family's signature move, the Mantra of Xuanming. In an instant, cold, white aura rose from their body. The entire space around them soon became covered in a freezing fog.

In the fog, a completely transparent blue drop of water appeared before Yu Youxin, giving off an extremely cold aura. That was the Xuanming Primordial Water.

The other three of them did the same as they summoned their own Xuanming Primordial Water. The four Aurous Core stage cultivators attacked together as the Xuanming Primordial Water froze the immediate surroundings, turning what would otherwise be a nice summer day into a wintry chill.

"This time, we must kill him!" Just as Yu Youxin was about to make his move, he paused suddenly as he could not detect Xiao Budian's location.

In the next instant, Yu Youxin heard two consecutive cries of agonies.

That voice could not have belonged to a mere child.

In the next instant, Yu Youxin heard a thunderous storm brewing up next to his ears. It was so loud that he almost went deaf. A ferocious gale coupled with wild streaks of lightning tore apart the freezing fog together.

Xiao Budian appeared before him. His entire body was surrounded by gale and thunder, like a divine being.

Yu Youxin swept the battlefields with his eyes as his body turned ice-cold.

His other three companions had already been defeated by Xiao Budian. They fell from the sky and churned up a small cloud of sand as they landed.

Yu Youxin initially felt that he had overestimated Xiao Budian's abilities. However, reality demonstrated that Xiao Budian was much more powerful than he had imagined.

He did not hesitate anymore as he conjured and raised a small blue sail.

The small blue sail floated halfway up to the sky and suddenly, it gave off eye-piercingly bright blue light. The bone-chillingly cold wind flew in all directions.

The onlookers below the Aurous Core stage who touched these winds shivered immediately as if they had fallen into an ice crevice.

Everyone was shocked. They immediately widened the distance between themselves and the blue sail. Despite not being the target of the blue sail, they could still feel its chill. How could such a small sail be so powerful?

Someone with particularly sharp eyes recognized it immediately. "This is the Xuanming Sail of the Yu Family. It's a Nascent Soul stage magic item!"

The aura of the sail vibrated, it was almost exactly the same as the aura on Yu Wanfeng's body.

Everyone's gaze fell upon Yu Wanfeng. No one would have thought that he would be so cruel as to secretly give his own Xuanming Sail to Yu Youxin.

He truly wanted to kill Xiao Budian.

Yang Tonghui arched his eyebrows as he looked at Yu Wanfeng. "This person is truly shameless, but does he have to resort to this? Could it be that there's enmity between them and Xiao Budian?"

Facing everyone's discussion and finger-pointing, Yu Wanfeng pretended as if they did not exist. He stared intently at Lin Feng as if scared that Lin Feng would rescue Xiao Budian.

He did not dare to attack himself, as he feared detection by Lin Feng. Hence, he secretly passed his Xuanming Sail to Yu Youxin

and company with the intention of killing Xiao Budian right here.

If Lin Feng were to assist, he would intervene.

Yang Tonghui turned his head to Lin Feng and said, "Why aren't you intervening? A Nascent Soul stage magic item is completely out of his league..."

Thinking about that, Yang Tonghui looked at Xiao Budian. With that gaze, his eyes widened in shock.

Xiao Budian looked at the sail fearlessly. First, he used his Infinite Thunderstorm to attack the Xuanming Primordial Water released by the Xuanming Sail. After charging, the power of his Infinite Thunderstorm was in no way inferior to it.

However, the Xuanming Primordial Water released by the Xuanming Sail was different from those of Yu Youxin and company. It incorporated Yu Wanfeng's understanding of the workings of space as a Nascent Soul stage cultivator.

The Xuanming Sail appeared to be able to freeze itself. It surrounded Xiao Budian's gale and thunder cover as it squeezed towards its center.

Xiao Budian was in no way anxious as he stretched out a hand to pat his forehead, "Go!"

From his forehead emerged a green light, and from the green

light emerged a small three-legged crucible.

Telepathically, the three-legged crucible vibrated vigorously before disappearing from its original position. It sped through space, and in the instant which it disappeared, it reappeared before Yu Youxin.

Yu Youxin was shocked, "How is this possible? With the Xuanming Primordial Water of my Six Uncle's Xuanming Sail, all space should have been sealed... Wait, could it be a Nascent Soul stage item too?"

The people around him gasped. Those with sharp eyes realized that Xiao Budian's Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness too was a Nascent Soul stage magic item like the Xuanming Sail. However, there were major differences.

Yu Youxin's Xuanming Sail had the same aura as Yu Wanfeng as it originally belonged to Yu Wanfeng, who lent it Yu Youxin temporarily.

However, the aura of the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness was exactly the same as Xiao Budian's.

In other words, this Nascent Soul stage magic item belonged to Xiao Budian personally.

Wu Yunliang and Meng Chaoran looked at each other. Meng Chaoran shook his head slightly and Wu Yunliang sighed again.

His gaze fell upon Lin Feng. Increasingly, he found Lin Feng unpredictable.

"An Aurous Core stage disciple who was given a Nascent Soul stage magic item. This cannot simply be described as 'exorbitant'! That is a Nascent Soul stage item, not a Nascent Soul Talisman." Wu Yunliang had a daughter, but even for his daughter, he did not give her a Nascent Soul stage item for self-defence.

Wu Yunliang turned and looked at Xiao Yan and the rest of Lin Feng's disciples. He calculated in his heart, "If every single one of them possessed a Nascent Soul stage item, that will be truly..."

Everyone who watched the battle was emotionally charged. Within the battle itself, Yu Youxin frantically waved the Xuanming Sail to protect himself as he tried to counter the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness. The two Nascent Soul stage objects clashed.

The Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness crashed onto the Xuanming Primordial Water released by the Xuanming Sail. It vibrated like ripples on a water surface.

In that instant, the Xuanming Primordial Water, which was in the solid state, finally resembled actual water.

The Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness could not challenge the Xuanming Sail by itself, but what it could do was to break the seal it imposed on the surrounding area. Riding on gale and storm, Xiao Budian rushed before Yu Youxin in the blink of an eye.

The ferocious thunder struck Yu Youxin.

Looking at Xiao Budian victorious in the sky while the four Aurous Core stage disciples of the Yu Family lay motionless on the ground like dead dogs, everyone present was stunned. In their minds, Lin Feng's words echoed.

"Disciples of my Celestial Sect of Wonders are invincible against others of their class!"

Chapter 213: More And More Opponents

Yu Wanfeng stared at Yu Youxin and the three other cultivators lying motionless on the ground, stunned.

Then, Yu Wanfeng felt like slapping himself twice. If he could give a Nascent Soul stage magic item to Yu Youxin and company, why couldn't Lin Feng?

However, he never expected Lin Feng to directly bestow the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness to Xiao Budian, allowing Xiao Budian to own it completely.

This caused him to further speculate Lin Feng's prowess. "If he treats Nascent Soul stage items so lightly and gives them to his disciples so easily, then this person is possibly beyond the Nascent Soul stage. If that's the case, then my entire household needs to be very careful."

Many thoughts swirled through Yu Wanfeng's brains. However, after a while, he focused his attention again because something that almost made him go crazy happened.

After defeating Yu Youxin and company, Xiao Budian stared at the temporarily out-of-control Xuanming Sail and said smiling, "This item is not bad, I want it."

Saying that Xiao Budian activated the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness, which spat out a ray of green light. It surrounded the Xuanming Sail and absorbed it within the crucible.

Yu Wanfeng's eyes almost burst and he almost spat blood out in anger, "Little b*stard, do you want to die?"

With his mana, he managed to extricate the Xuanming Sail from within the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness.

Yu Wanfeng was the true owner of the Xuanming Sail, which was his natal magic item. The communication between the two was very close and his mastery exceeded that of Xiao Budian. With this summon, the Xuanming Sail immediately broke free from the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness.

In that moment, Lin Feng smiled and said, "This item shall be the prize of this battle."

Laughing, Lin Feng waved his finger and a cloud of purple gas formed a small world, enveloping the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness.

The Xuanming Sail, which was making a ruckus within the crucible, was calmed almost immediately.

Xiao Budian hugged the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness and laughed, "If I say it's mine, it's mine."

Yu Wanfeng was infuriated. Throwing all concerns to the wind, he roared and mana coursed through his body, turning into an icy blast. He went straight for Xiao Budian.

Looking at the situation, Miao Shihao smiled and said, "Yu, the two of us should get to know each other better."

Saying that Miao Shihao stuck out his body and retrieved Xiao Budian while blocking Yu Wanfeng's path at the same time.

"You transsexual piece of sh*t, scram!" Yu Wanfeng bellowed as the Xuanming Primordial Water coursed out and turned into an extreme chill.

This time, Miao Shihao did not use his Ray Reflecting Mirror nor his Superior Orchid Cacti. Instead, he smiled and said, "Sadly, the person who should scram is you."

His right hand formed an orchid symbol with his fingers and he pointed his hand at Yu Wanfeng's Xuanming Primordial Water. In that instant, a torrent of water rushed towards him.

That was one of the four techniques of the Mirrors, Flowers, Water and Moon Technique: the Canglang Water Technique.

"Is this the spell that Miao Shihao cultivated with the One Heavenly Primordial Water?" Lin Feng looked interestedly at the scene before him. He saw Yu Wanfeng's Xuanming Primordial Water crashing against Miao Shihao's Canglang Water Technique and disappearing instantly.

Yu Wanfeng roared in anger as the Xuanming Primordial Water

attacked Miao Shihao non-stop. However, they were all reduced to nothing by Miao Shihao.

Yang Tonghui, Wu Yunliang and company watched this amazing spectacle unfold in awe.

Everyone knew that the Master of Mirrors and Flowers, Miao Shihao, had two ultimate techniques: the Ray Reflecting Mirror and the Superior Orchid Cacti. This was also the source of his title. Today, however, he demonstrated a brand new move.

While this spell appeared simple, the power within it made everyone on-scene looked at it in awe.

The Xuanming Primordial Water, one of the Six Great Primordial Waters, could not advance beyond the blockade of this technique, demonstrating the power of Miao Shihao's Canglang Water Technique.

"Could it be that Miao Shihao's spell could dissolve Yu Wanfeng completely?" Lin Feng thought about it in his heart. Then, he realized that Miao Shihao had decided to turn the tables on Yu Wanfeng by heading straight for him.

In that instant, Yu Wanfeng regained his calm. He did not dare to be careless and immediately used the Xuanming Primordial Water to protect himself. The blue icy water shielded him like an ice castle, keeping him safely inside.

However, what appeared to be an impregnable castle eroded before the Canglang Water. With only a single wave, the castle was reduced to nothing and Yu Wanfeng himself was disorientated by the torrent.

"Sixth Brother, this is quite the disappointment," an icy cold voice sounded suddenly as the space next to Yu Wanfeng split open.

An elder with a wispy beard and a dark expression stepped out from the split in space. In the time it took him to raise his hand, the Xuanming Primordial Water turned into a barrier and blocked the Canglang Water from the pathetic Yu Wanfeng.

Yu Wanfeng, who was drenched and shamed, said, "Fifth Brother..."

Upon hearing the form of address, Lin Feng knew who was the person without even having met him.

The Yu Family had another Nascent Soul stage grandmaster who was respectfully referred to by the disciples of the Yu Family as the Fifth Granduncle, Yu Qianshan. His aura coursed powerfully through his body as his mastery exceeded that of Yu Wanfeng. He had already reached the middle phase of the Nascent Soul stage.

However, Lin Feng's attention was not focused on him at all. Instead, he turned his head to look at the sky on the horizon.

Over there, the space began to open again as three sword radiances flew out and appeared before everyone.

The first person was a youth clad in a robe made out of hemp. His expression was coldly sharp. It was the Nascent Soul stage cultivator of Mount Shu Sword Sect, Kong Chang.

To the left of Kong Chang was a sword radiance in the shape of an azure cloud. After it stopped, the elder who emerged from it had an expression of grace and finesse.

To Kong Chang's right, a sword radiance burned brilliantly. From the flames, a rough middle-aged man stepped out from it.

Yang Tonghui, upon seeing them, arched his eyebrows as he introduced them to Lin Feng, "The youth in the hemp robe is the first disciple of the Lixiong Branch of the Mount Shu Sword Sect, Master Lixiong Kong Chang."

"The elder is the Azure Clouds Grandmaster of the Sword of Radiance Sect. His mastery is extremely high and his ranking in the sect is high as well. The middle-aged man is the Flying Fire Grandmaster of the Intense Flaming Sword Sect."

Lin Feng nodded his head. He remembered more than two years ago he was involved in a skirmish with the Intense Flaming Sword Sect after accepting Xiao Yan as his disciple.

While the Aurous Core stage elder from the Intense Flaming

Sword Sect eventually backed off after falling for Lin Feng's trick, that was one of the most perilous moments for Lin Feng ever since he stepped into this world, particularly because he was still a Qi Disciple back then.

As for the Sword of Radiance Sect, Lin Feng turned his head to look at Xiao Yan meaningfully, who clenched his fists tighter.

Wu Yunliang and Meng Chaoran looked at each other. Meng Chaoran shook his head and said, "The Celestial Sect of Wonders is in trouble now. They have more and more enemies." Wu Yunliang agreed.

Upon arriving, Kong Chang swept the crowd with his razor-sharp gaze. Finally, his gaze fell upon Lin Feng as he thought, "Who is this person? Why am I not getting anything?"

However, as a sword cultivator, he was never scared. He stared intently at Lin Feng and said coldly, "Are the master of the Celestial Sect, Lin Feng?"

Sweeping the crowd with his psychic consciousness, he heard the discussions of everyone in the crowd. His brows stood up immediately, "Your Celestial Sect of Wonders' disciples are invincible against those of the same class? What an appetite!"

He slowly pulled out his longsword and balanced it before his chest. "If that's the case, I, Kong Chang of the Mount Shu Sword Sect, challenge you to a battle. What do you say?"

Everyone in the vicinity began to chatter once again. While they knew that the Mount Shu Sword Sect was bloodthirsty and fierce, they did not expect Kong Chang to challenge Lin Feng straightaway after arriving.

Yang Tonghui arched his eyebrows and said, "Brother Kong, it will be the Sect-opening Ceremony of the Celestial Sect of Wonders soon. Choosing to battle now may be disrespectful."

Kong Chang replied emotionlessly, "We sword cultivators discuss only the way of the sword instead of customs or traditions. If you don't even understand this principle, then the Heavenly Master Sword Sect has gotten too used to your rotten life of luxury."

"You..." Yang Tonghui squinted his eyes.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster next to Kong Chang stepped forward and said lightly, "Tonghui, we are all from the Nine Heavenly Sword Alliance. We are close like twigs of the same branch, don't tar our good working relationship with one another."

Yang Tonghui's face turned sullen. Before the Azure Clouds Grandmaster, he was silent.

Kang Nanhua said suddenly, "Master Yang's words are righteous and true. The Celestial Sect of Wonders shall remember it." He stepped forward, looked at Kong Chang and said lightly, "If my Lord were to fight you personally, then it would appear as if he's bullying the weak. If you wish to spar, I'll entertain you instead."

Kong Chang snorted derisively, "Only you?"

The Flying Fire Grandmaster next to them laughed, "Cut the crap, start fighting already!" Laughing, his entire body turned into a blast of fire radiance and shot through the sky. In an instant, he appeared before Kang Nanhua.

The blazing-hot fire dyed the sky red and the cold that was brought forth earlier by Yu Wanfeng disappeared immediately. Everyone felt as if they were enveloped in a furnace.

Kang Nanhua did not appear to mind, however. He flicked a droplet of water with his finger which flew up to the skies to receive the blazing sword radiance of the Flying Fire Grandmaster.

Initially, the Flying Fire Grandmaster did not mind. However, the moment his sword touched the droplet he realized something was wrong.

The droplet immediately burst open. What appeared to be a small droplet turned into an entire lake as a breathtakingly humongous amount of water appeared.

Kang Nanhua's finger flicked repeatedly as droplet after droplet of water flew towards the sword radiance of the Flying Fire Grandmaster. All of the droplets burst open and came together. It was as if the four seas had emptied out into the sky.

"The Great Chaos Primordial Water!" The Flying Fire Grandmaster came from a major sect and he had seen and heard much. Immediately, he recognized Kang Nanhua's abilities. He did not dare approach it and instead rode away on his sword radiance.

Regardless of who it was, fighting someone of the same level as him who had mastered the Great Chaos Primordial Water was a stupid option.

Looking at the scene before him, Kong Chang's eyes shone as he said, "Finally, someone who has the ability to fight me."

Saying that the ordinary-looking Kong Chang was immediately enveloped in a startling sword aura. It was as if his entire body became a sword.

A divine sword that had already left its scabbard and with the ability to cleave apart heavens and earth.

Whish! Whish! Whish!

Kong Chang's hemp robes tore apart as infinite and blazingly bright radiance shone from his body.

Limitless amount of sword radiance clouded the area he was in.

Kong Chang's entire body turned into a sword radiance brimming with killing intent. Like the glare of the sun, he shot straight towards Kang Nanhua.

The Lixiong method of the Mount Shu Sword Technique only required one sword to slay its foes.

Normally, they would hide hundreds and thousands of sword aura within themselves and endure the agony of thousands of swords slicing within their bodies. Without harming their enemies, they would have already injured themselves. However, in the instant they revealed their powers, all of the sword auras would burst from within their bodies, powerful beyond measure.

Kong Chang's use of the method was truly terrifying.

Everyone's gaze fell upon Kang Nanhua.

"The Lixiong Sword's fame is well-deserved." Facing Kong Chang's sword, Kang Nanhua's expression did not change. He sighed quietly and in the next instant, the Sand of Ganges and the Great Chaos Primordial Water appeared before him.

Chapter 214: A Bunch Of Freaks

Facing Kong Chang's Lixiong Sword, Kang Nanhua slammed his palms together as the Sand of Ganges and the Great Chaos Primordial Water began to spin.

A single speck of the Sand of Ganges matched with a single drop of the Great Chaos Primordial Water. The two of them combined. Soon, numerous other specks of sand and drops of water began to merge and formed a shield in front of Kang Nanhua.

The shield was a perfect circle. On it, one could see numerous meanders of a river, ebbing and flowing like a real river. Each meander led to another, and one could not guess where did the river begin or where did it end.

This was the result of Kang Nanhua combining his Infinite Sand Shields of the Ganges with the Great Chaos Primordial Water, turning it into the rock-solid Great Chaotic Shield of the Ganges.

Looking at Kang Nanhua's Great Chaotic Shield of the Ganges, Lin Feng was no longer worried about him.

Kang Nanhua's original Infinite Sand Shield of the Ganges' speciality was that while it could be shattered by the enemy's attacks, it would speedily reform and regroup and continue to resist the enemy's onslaught.

However, the fact that it could be breached meant that it had weaknesses. A defence consisting primarily of the Sand of the

Ganges was insufficiently thick and sturdy.

Introducing the Great Chaos Primordial Water into it would raise it to a next level.

When Kang Nanhua gave Xiao Yan and company the Great Chaotic Shield of the Ganges earlier on, he had yet to go through the Thunder Tribulations and formed his Nascent Soul. Now, after forming his Nascent Soul, it could be unabashedly said that his Great Chaotic Shield of the Ganges was the strongest defensive measure a Nascent Soul stage cultivator could possess.

Looking at the ordinary-looking shield, it emitted an eternal and everlasting power.

Kong Chang released the sword aura that he had stored within his body for thousands of years and concentrated them into a dazzling sword radiance. His Lixiong Sword, while it was no more ferocious nor stronger than the Shaoshang Sword, ranked the first amongst the Mount Shu Sword Sect in terms of offensive prowess.

In the entire Grand Celestial World, it was one of the few truly devastating attacks.

An endless amount of sword radiance that could pierce the heavens and earth landed on Kang Nanhua's Great Chaotic Shield of the Ganges like bolts of lightning.

Amidst the flying specks of sand and the countless granites that

tumbled off the shield, one would expect that the Sand of Ganges, after being mercilessly attacked by the Lixiong Sword, would lose its potency.

However, after the sword radiance dimmed and Kong Chang's energy faded, Kang Nanhua's shield remained intact.

At that moment, a great indent appeared on the shield that made it look like a funnel now. It was just inches away from being penetrated by the Lixiong Sword.

However, the few inches that preserved the integrity of the shield were akin to the distance to the horizon; they were simply unsurmountable.

Everyone on-site was stunned.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster looked at Kang Nanhua and sighed, "Junior, you are truly fearsome."

The Flying Fire Grandmaster and Yang Tonghui both had dark expressions on their faces. Regardless of whose side they were on, they were both deeply stunned by Kang Nanhua's powers.

The Mount Shu Sword Sect was the premier sword sect under heavens. It occupied one of the three great holy spots in the world, and all of its disciples were sword cultivators. No one cultivated spells nor tried to craft magic items. They relied upon only a longsword to dominate everything under the heavens. Their

ferocity and battle-worthiness brought them fame.

There was even an unofficial saying that went "Mount Shu's disciples are greater by one tier." This meant that in terms of actual battling capabilities, any disciple of the Mount Shu Sword Sect could battle a disciple one level higher than him.

For example, Kong Chang, despite only being an early Nascent Soul stage cultivator, could easily challenge a middle Nascent Soul stage cultivator with his Lixiong Sword.

However, Kong Chang, who initially wished to challenge Lin Feng, had been blocked by Kang Nanhua.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster's expression was indescribably complicated as he looked at Lin Feng and Xiao Yan. "The matter regarding the Celestial Sect of Wonders...is becoming increasingly difficult to resolve."

Zhang Hai of the Marquis of Xuanji's household also looked at Zhu Yi, who was by Lin Feng's side, and sighed, "Young Master Yi, in only a span of two years, went from a scholar with no expertise in cultivation to a cultivator in his Aurous Core stage."

"Such talent is sufficient to demonstrate that he is truly the son of the Marquis."

Ever since he appeared, Zhu Yi, who was quietly next to Lin Feng, had paid occasional attention to Zhang Hai.

Upon hearing Zhang Hai's words, Zhu Yi smiled and said, "Mr Tao Er said the same thing earlier. Initially, I replied that my master's high level of mastery was a result of his own capabilities whereas my mastery today is a result of my hard work and my master's teachings."

"Today, my answer is different."

Zhu Yi said quietly, "Mr Zhang, please do not ask me to go back. You will not succeed."

"However, you could report to my father that I will make my return to Tianjing City one day. And that day is drawing near."

Zhang Hai's eyes turned into slits. "I will settle Tao Er's murder. Afterwards, I will definitely bring Young Master Yi back, so please don't think too much."

He turned to Lin Feng and said, "You tricked my Young Master and killed one of my household managers. Today, I demand an answer."

Lin Feng had already known about Zhang Hai's origins from Zhu Yi. He did not try to make a move, but instead said, "The Great Zhou Empire obeys the commands of Emperor Liang Pan."

Such a confusing statement left everyone stunned.

Zhang Hai arched his eyebrows and said, "Cut the crap, all thieves must be killed!"

As he said that, Zhang Hai extended the fingers of his right hand and wrote the word "诛" ('to kill') in the air.

The moment the word appeared, a strong gust of killing intent was released. Everyone on-scene could not even raise their heads in face of this pressure.

For the cultivators with a lower level of mastery, an image appeared before their eyes: they saw themselves kneeling on a scaffold before a chopping block as a giant sword was lifted above their heads. While they wanted to resist, they could not and could only await their death.

Standing in the middle of the air, Lin Feng did not even react. He did not even look at Zhang Hai.

Next, to him, Zhu Yi stepped forward and said slowly, "Mr Zhang. I've already said. You cannot do it."

Zhu Yi too extended his fingers and wielded them like swords. With two swishes, he deployed the "Qian Sword Technique" and the "Dui Sword Technique" from his Way of the Facile Blade.

With "Qian" on top and "Dui" below, he formed the "Lui" hexagram.

"A gentleman must understand the rites and rationality," said Zhu Yi quietly. "An upright gentleman must understand rites. However, he must understand rationality too. You kill without reason and attack without purpose, behaving irrationally. You will not stand."

The two sword aura that Zhu Yi conjured slowly dissipated the terror conjured by Zhang Hai's "诛" character.

Zhang Hai shook his head and smiled, "Is this the nonsense that you had learnt in the past two years? I'm afraid it's preposterous."

He did not have to write anything now as his mere words were enough to change the character. "诛" quickly became "谬" ('preposterous'), destroying Zhu Yi's "Lui" symbol.

Zhu Yi arched his eyebrow, "Using force to overcome wit? Are you running out of words?"

Saying that Zhu Yi's Aurous Core begun to vibrate violently as a black aura and a white aura surrounded his body.

One repelled all creations, and was bright to the extreme while the other absorbed all creations, and was extremely black.

He released two more sword auras, one of which was his "Gen Sword Technique" and the other was his "Kan Sword Technique."

With "Gen" on top and "Kan" on the bottom, he formed the

"Meng" hexagram.

The "Meng" hexagram brought with it the meaning of a knowledge renaissance.

I did not seek to ask the unknowing child. The unknowing child asked me, and hence I must reply. If I were to ask the question over and over again disrespectfully, then it's an affront to heaven.

At that point of time, I shall not give a reply.

With his "Meng" hexagram, Zhu Yi sealed the power of Zhang Hai's "谬" character.

Zhang Hai shook his head and almost laughed. His Nascent Soul power burst and destroyed Zhu Yi's sword aura immediately.

Zhu Yi did not panic. Instead, he slammed his fists together and conjured a spell while chanting, "Infinite light and darkness, thou art the two polarities of creation."

When Zhu Yi's black and white sword aura appeared, Lin Feng smiled and said, "This is a result of Zhu Yi's Aurous Core formation and synthesis of the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams. Together with his mastery, he formed the second technique of his Way of the Facile Blade."

As Zhu Yi conjured the spell, the two black and white sword aura he released turned into the two polar opposites of light and

darkness, forming a great Bai Sema.

The Bai Sema looked uncannily like a devil's snare, but it was not one.

An infinite amount of piercingly bright light shone as an infinite amount of dark streaks weaved together like the movement of stars in the world. Together, they appeared to form a small world.

Zhu Yi's second self-created technique was called the "Great Boundaries of the Celestial Light and Darkness Mandala".

Zhang Hai's face changed suddenly as he saw Zhu Yi's "Great Boundaries of the Celestial Light and Darkness Mandala". A small light appeared at the center and the small world was sucked into it as if doomsday had arrived.

This was what Zhu Yi learnt from Lin Feng; after understanding about true destructive powers he incorporated them into his spell to maximize its destructive capabilities.

As the entire world was about to be destroyed, Zhang Hai's mana, which was sealed within it, was reduced to nothing.

"This disciple of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, is he still human?"

All of the spectators looked on speechless. "Other than Xiao Yan, this disciple too managed to resist the powers of a Nascent Soul stage cultivator."

"A bunch of freaks!"

"The Celestial Sect of Wonders is so strong?"

Zhang Hai's expression changed too. He took a deep breath and took out a brush. He said solemnly, "Young Master Yi, I must admit that you stunned me. However, this reaffirmed my desire to bring you home!"

Looking at the situation, Lin Feng smiled as he flicked his finger. A white streak of lightning entered Zhu Yi's body. "Zhu Yi, fight without restraint. Show your household manager what moves you have."

Zhu Yi was jolted. He looked at Zhang Hai fearlessly as he charged forward.

On the other side, Yu Qianshan, who was originally immobilized by Miao Shihao, was freed by Yu Wanfeng. Yu Qianshan looked at Xiao Budian, as his gaze brimmed with killing intent. Without another word, he sprinted forward.

Master Cyclone snorted, "Since your Celestial Sect of Wonders does not know when to stop, you shall pay for it." As he said that, he summoned his Nine Heavens Formless Squall again.

A whole bunch of disciples from the Aeolus Sect and the Yu Family followed their grandmasters as they surged towards Lin

Feng.

Lin Feng, however, smiled. He turned to look at Xiao Yan and the rest and said, "You must treasure such an opportunity to spar."

Xiao Yan smiled, "Finally, we could demonstrate the power of the Great Celestial Sect of Wonders. We should thank them."

"Nice," Lin Feng smiled. With another flick, an earthly-yellow streak of light landed on Xiao Yan. Xiao Yan laughed as he stood ready to receive Master Cyclone.

Xiao Budian's speed was faster than him. Green light brimmed on his body as he disappeared into the void. In the next instant, he appeared before Yu Wanfeng.

Wu Yunliang stared at the scene in disbelief. He looked at Meng Chaoran and realized that he too was equally stunned, "The master of the Celestial Sect is so confident. He allowed a bunch of Aurous Core stage disciples to battle with Nascent Soul stage masters."

Meng Chaoran then turned his gaze to Lin Feng, "Why doesn't he fight? Why does he have so much confidence in his own disciples? Could it really be that he doesn't care? Or is there another reason?"

Chapter 215: The Inevitable

The cultivators of the Yu Family and the Aeolus Sect followed their grandmasters as they surged towards Lin Feng.

They did not dare to tackle Xiao Yan and company nor Lin Feng. They decided to leave those freaks for their respective grandmasters to settle.

A bunch of Foundation Establishment stage cultivators, led by a group of Aurous Core stage cultivators helmed by Shu Xianshi, charged towards Wang Lin.

Wang Lin's expression was calm as he remained silent. However, mana surged through his body as black gases were released from his body. He went straight into the Destructive Stage of the River Styx. Today, he was out for blood.

Yue Hongyan, who was next to him, moved even faster. Her Black Ember Pole-Ax filled the sky with black flames as she charged straight into the crowd.

Wang Lin arched his eyebrows as he thought, "Little Junior was not exaggerating. This woman is truly fierce. Truly, she doesn't give chance to her foes..."

He turned his head to look to the side.

Yang Qing, looking at the surging crowd, took a deep breath, "I

must repay Senior's compassion towards me. Dying is no big deal, I'm not scared."

Despite saying that, Yang Qing knew that he was nothing compared to his previous sect, the Cloud Water Cave, or the Yu Family and the Aeolus Sect. In his fight against his foes, he felt as if he could let go of something.

He was never a skilled combatant. Now, he was about to pay for his lack of proficiency.

Wang Lin arched his eyebrow and did not turn his head back. He killed an Aeolus Sect cultivator with his finger and rushed towards Yang Qing saying, "Fight without worry, you are strong."

In the time it took Yang Qing to react, Shu Xianshi, the Aurous Core stage cultivator of the Aeolus Sect, was already in front of him. Looking at Yang Qing releasing the Grand Moon Primordial Water, his eyes blazed. "Such a treasure is wasted on your hands. Give it to me!"

While he said that, purple light exploded before him, spitting an inferno.

Shu Xianshi shrieked, "Purple Talisman?! The Nascent Soul stage Purple Talisman!" As he was about to flee on his Nine Heavens Formless Squall, the blazing inferno consumed him.

Wang Lin shook his sleeves, "What a load of crap." Looking at the

stunned Yang Qing, he said, "Fight fearlessly. If you can't beat them, use master's talismans. Those aren't keepsakes."

Yang Qing was slightly stunned, but he decided to calm himself down. Determination flashed in his eyes.

Before him, a bunch of cultivators from the Yu Family rushed forward. Someone had conjured the Xuanming Primordial Water and Yang Qing responded to it with his Grand Moon Primordial Water. Emerald colored water swirled with a deep blue torrent as the Yu Family cultivator lost control of his Xuanming Primordial Water.

The Grand Moon Primordial Water fought water with water and was the supreme leader of all types of water. Even if the enemy were to use all five other primordial waters against him, the Grand Moon Primordial Water would still prevail.

Yang Qing's mastery may not be as high as his opponents, but he did absorb a stream of Grand Moon Primordial Water earlier in the Kunlun Mountains. The Grand Moon Primordial Water now coursed like a flood as the Yu Family cultivators' Xuanming Primordial Water changed its allegiance to it.

Yang Qing cast a spell and the Xuanming Primordial Water turned against its owners. In that moment, tens of Yu Family cultivators were frozen into ice statues.

After being frozen by the Xuanming Primordial Water, their spirit would succumb to the freeze, sealing their fate.

Looking at Yang Qing's killing intent underneath his calm appearance, Wang Lin arched his eyebrows and smiled slightly.

He pointed randomly with his finger and the Road to River Styx appeared. From the ground, tens of thousands of skeletal claws emerged as they dragged their enemies below the ground into Hell.

The sight was witnessed by all present. Many of them were despondent as they thought, "Even a Foundation Establishment stage disciple is so precious, could they really be first amongst equals?"

While his sons and cousins died in waves, Yu Wanfeng did not show even a hint of concern. His attention was entirely fixated on killing Xiao Budian.

However, Xiao Budian was stronger than he thought.

Xiao Budian, who connected with the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness, could travel through space with its help, just like Yu Wanfeng. He was not scared of Yu Wanfeng's Nascent Soul abilities to seal off and destroy space.

This greatly reduced the disparity in abilities between Yu Wanfeng and Xiao Budian. Yu Wanfeng only beat Xiao Budian in terms of battle experience and the fact that Nascent Soul stage cultivators could suppress the powers of Aurous Core stage cultivators.

Xiao Budian did not panic as he said, "While your mana beat mine, I beat you in many other aspects."

Right after he said that he quickly moved through space and appeared before Yu Wanfeng. He threw a fist at him.

Yu Wanfeng snorted coldly as he concentrated his mana in response. Suddenly, he felt as if something was amiss.

Xiao Budian's punch was way faster than usual.

Its power was like that of a powerful gale or a deafening thunder that was about to reach its pinnacle. In other words, it was at the height of its power.

There was nothing else but speed and power here.

Faster than a gale and fiercer than thunder.

This was the physical move, Heaven-Shaking Thunderstorm.

After forming his Aurous Core, this was the technique that Xiao Budian had derived from the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams.

At this moment, his pre-pubescent body was filled with a terrifying power.

Every fiber of his body crackled with energy. Every orifice and every nerve brimmed with lightning and sizzled!

Xiao Budian's clothes and hair rustled with electric currents. In his immediate environment, even the specks of dust floating in space were immobilized by the electricity.

Yu Wanfeng was shocked and he did not even have time to think. His Xuanming Primordial Water flew before him to shield him from Xiao Budian's punch.

"Boom!" In the explosion, the ice shield formed by the Xuanming Primordial Water was actually shattered by Xiao Budian's electrically-charged punch.

While Yu Wanfeng himself was unharmed, his face turned green. He understood clearly that had the punch landed on him, he was a goner.

Xiao Budian's mana could not beat his, but his physical martial arts was better than his!

Yu Wanfeng's superiority over Xiao Budian in terms of mana was actually less than Xiao Budian's superiority over him in terms of physical martial arts.

Yu Wanfeng's face was sullen as he traded blows with Xiao Budian. Next to him, Master Cyclone was just as flummoxed.

With the help of the Heaven and Earth Mirror, Xiao Yan was able to completely forgo his defences as he utilized all his offensive abilities against Master Cyclone. The Crash of the Eight Trigrams, the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire and the Grand Sun Primordial crashed were all used to bombard Master Cyclone, whose hair was singed and face muddled from the relentless onslaught.

Not mentioning his internal pain, his Aeolus Sect's techniques were all swift like the wind. While they were deadly, they were more suited for offence than defence.

However, with the Heaven and Earth Mirror cloaking Xiao Yan in the Central Wutu Divine Light, his attacks were useless against him. In the end, the offensive-based Master Cyclone could only try and dodge Xiao Yan's attack without being able to land a scratch on him.

Master Cyclone's appearance was no older than 13 or 14. His black hair hung loose and his face was flawless like jade. He had a scholarly air to him.

However, in reality, he had extended his life by transferring his soul to another body. His age was actually in the thousands, but now he was beaten to pulp by someone more junior than him by eons. Master Cyclone was deeply unsettled by this fact.

He slammed his palms together and performed a weird incantation. In that moment, hundreds of Nine Heavens Formless

Squalls gathered together.

The originally invisible squall began to stack upon one another to form a longsword about 3 meters long, 1 meter wide and 60 centimeters thick!

This was the Sword of Aeolus!

When this sword was revealed, everyone looked at it. This technique of Master Cyclone could rival the Lixiong Sword in terms of destructive and offensive powers.

The Heaven and Earth Mirror could not resist such a move!

Xiao Yan looked at it, and laughed, "Let's have a swordfight then!" He withdrew his Heaven and Earth Mirror and his Grand Sun Primordial Flame. A blunt sword as wide as a door and as heavy as metal appeared in his hands.

The Nefarious Almighty Sword!

Xiao Yan raised his Nefarious Almighty Sword as an endless amount of purplish-blue fire filled the sky. The night sky brimmed with an unearthly glow.

The purplish-blue flame was overflowing with the intent of destroying everything. Compared to the Sword of Aeolus, it was crueller and fiercer.

Almighty Heaven-Slaying Blaze!

After Xiao Yan formed his Aurous Core, this was the second technique he derived from the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams.

Bellowing, he parried the Sword of Aeolus with his Nefarious Almighty Sword.

The night sky was left with a purplish scar where the two swords connected, almost as if the heaven itself was split into two.

The shock wave from the clash stirred up a sandstorm as the dark sky was illuminated by the light from the clash.

In that instant, the voices of the other battles died down as all everyone could hear was the blazing fire and the wind.

Everyone opened their eyes as they could not believe that Xiao Yan, with his Nefarious Almighty Sword, was still standing after receiving a strike from Master Cyclone and his Sword of Aeolus.

Xiao Yan, Zhu Yi and Xiao Budian, all of whom were in their Aurous Core stage, were able to challenge the Nascent Soul stage Master Cyclone, Zhang Hai and Yu Wanfeng.

"The rise of the Celestial Sect of Wonders is unstoppable!"

Wu Yunliang, who had been watching the entire battle, sighed.

Meng Chaoran, who was next to him, turned and stared, "Big Senior, are you sure?"

Wu Yunliang nodded and said, "It's easy to praise others when their fortune is good. However, helping others when they are in need is difficult. However, with the current situation, the two could not be discussed as if they are equals."

Meng Chaoran said quietly, "Let's not even talk about the Aeolus Sect. The opposing side has the Yu Family, the Intense Flaming Sword Sect, and possibly the Sword of Radiance Sect and the Mount Shu Sword Sect!"

"If we are not careful, our Ethereal Mountain Sect could be instantly destroyed."

Wu Yunliang's face was calm, "One can only find treasure through hardship. Our Ethereal Mountain Sect had already reached its most perilous moment, what more do we have to fear?"

Meng Chaoran nodded his head, "If that's the case, then go and do what you must. I'll help you."

Wu Yunliang's face almost broke into a smile. As he was about to say something, the smile froze on his face.

A giant pressure suddenly descended upon everyone on-scene.

This feeling was not an ordinary type of fear. Rather, it was an intuitive, primal fear, similar to the one a rabbit has when meeting a wolf or a lion. It came from the deepest regions of one's soul.

Everyone turned and looked in one direction. Over there stood a man, a young man.

His face was handsome and elegant as he wore a white robe. His body felt light like sand without any hint of sharpness. He was like a gust of wind or a natural fountain.

However, his eyes shone like stars in the night sky. It was almost as if he could pierce through one's soul with his gaze.

This was the Great Void Sect's current leader, the All-Under-Heavens Strider, Pang Jie!

With Pang Jie's appearance, not only did Kong Chang, Zhang Hai and company feel the pressure. Even on the side of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, regardless of whether it was the Nascent Soul stage Kang Nanhua or Miao Shihao or the Aurous Core stage Xiao Yan and Zhu Yi, everyone felt a giant pressure crushing them. They could feel their mana being obstructed by an unknown force.

"Pang Jie is only in his Nascent Soul stage, he shouldn't be so powerful..." Wu Yunliang looked at Meng Chaoran and they said in unison, "Magic treasure! It must be a magic treasure that Pang Jie

possesses that brought about this pressure. Furthermore, this magic treasure must be from a cultivator in his Immortal Soul stage!"

Chapter 216: Holy Mountain! Holy Mountain!

In the Grand Celestial World, only the greatest cultivators who had attained the Immortal Soul Stage could smelt and mold their own magic treasures. All cultivators below the Immortal Soul stage could only cultivate magic items and not magic treasures. The magic items created would be benchmarked against the stage which the cultivator was at. The different stages were the Nascent Soul Stage magic item, Aurous Core Stage magic item, the Foundation Establishment Stage magic item and the Qi Training Stage magic item.

From the above paragraph, it was understood that the concept of magic treasures and magic items were totally different.

Magic treasures would develop its own treasure spirit and like an independent life form, it would possess the ability to think and to remember. Also, it could absorb the spiritual energy from its surroundings to improve its own capabilities.

Hence, a magic treasure could potentially become stronger than its original Immortal Soul Stage cultivator.

The ability to upset the balance of Yin-Yang and flip mountains and oceans was not beyond question!

Pang Jie, being the leader among the disciples who had come down the mountains of the Great Void Sect, was in possession of a magic treasure given to him by his master not to anyone's surprise.

The Great Void Sect, being the number one place for cultivation, definitely had magic treasures which were more powerful than the conventional ones.

Before the magic treasure had even revealed itself, it already managed to suppress the masses of the Celestial Sect of Wonders with only its aura.

Kong Chang, Master Cyclone and the rest were not affected in the least. The balance of power was tilted the moment Pang Jie picked his side.

Kong Chang looked at Pang Jie begrudgingly but he remained silent.

Meanwhile, Zhang Hai, Master Cyclone, Yu Qianshan and Yu Wanfeng did not hesitate as they built on the momentum and increased the power of their attacks on Xiao Yan and the rest.

The Flying Fire Grandmaster was still looking from the side, waiting for his turn to pounce and take advantage of the situation.

Yang Tonghui and the Azure Clouds Grandmaster stood facing each other. Yang Tonghui kept quiet as the Azure Clouds Grandmaster sighed with much regret. But he was more relieved than regretful as he muttered, "The Celestial Sect of Wonders is still too thin... There isn't enough talent and resources."

The other cultivators who were watching the fight might not recognize Pang Jie but they would have guessed that it was him from the robe that had white auspicious clouds stitched over it as well as the powerful ripples of mana that he dissipated.

"So it's not just Mount Shu Sword Sect that was displeased with the Celestial Sect of Wonders... It seems like the Great Void Sect is also equally unhappy."

"Since the Great Thunderclap Temple was already destroyed, only two of the traditional three sacred land for cultivation remained. Now that both of them, the Mount Shu Sword Sect and the Great Void Sect, had set their mind to destroy the Celestial Sect of Wonders, it is fated to vanish from the face of our land."

"It seems like the Celestial Sect of Wonders might not only be unable to open its Sect. It might just be destroyed."

"It has so many talents in the Sect though...What a waste..."

"So what if they are prodigious? If they don't know how to act by the rules, they are doomed to die."

As the masses discussed, some of them started to have different ideas.

"This might just be a golden opportunity to befriend members of the Great Void Sect and the Mount Shu Sword Sect. If I were able to do so, this would not be a wasted trip..."

A Nascent Soul Stage Grandmaster from a mid-tier sect, the Cloud Elephant Sect, from the Northern Feet of Mount Kunlun thought after thinking about his long trip to Shazhou.

The Cloud Elephant Grandmaster stepped forward and exclaimed, "The Celestial Sect of Wonders had behaved inappropriately and angered everyone. Since both the Great Void Sect and Mount Shu Sword Sect have taken the lead to punish the Celestial Sect of Wonders, the Cloud Elephant Sect shall assist them in their punitive measures!"

Following which, the Cloud Elephant Grandmaster extended his fists and large amount of white mist formed. The cloud mist congregated to form a gigantic white elephant which was the size of a knoll. It gave a loud roar as it charged towards Kang Nanhua who was in the middle of a fight with Kong Chang.

Meng Chaoran saw what the Cloud Elephant Grandmaster did and instantly frowned, "Hitting a man when he is down...What a despicable act."

Wu Yunliang who was behind him muttered, "Now that the Great Void Sect has joined in, I'm afraid the Celestial Sect of Wonders would not be able to survive this onslaught."

It was always well known that with great risks came great rewards. But when there was no chance at all, it would be futile and even stupid to gamble for a win.

As he thought about this, Wu Yunliang sighed and decided not to participate in the fight.

Yu Wanfeng and Master Cyclone laughed in unison after seeing how the tides had reversed. "Mr Lin, it seems like your Sect won't be opening anymore. Let's see if you will flee without your poor disciples!"

"Oh, is it?"

Regardless of whether his disciples were in an advantageous or disadvantageous position, Lin Feng, since revealing himself, had been standing quietly on top of an artificial void.

As he stared at afar, a smile began to form on Lin Feng's face. He was not looking at the powerful Pang Jie but rather at the eastern sky.

In the East, a red semi-circle was putting its best to extend itself out of the horizon as it radiated a warm and golden glow.

The surrounding cloud mist was set ablaze by the sun rays as it reflected bits and bits of the sun's golden glow.

It took only a split moment for the transition between the dark sky and the glowing dawn. Soon enough, before everyone could fully savor and appreciate the beauty of the sunrise, the entire red circle was above the horizon.

In the process of the countless fearsome battles, the entire night had passed.

Lin Feng smiled casually and said, "The Eighth of May has arrived. I welcome everyone to our humble abode at Mount Yujing. Thank you for gracing the opening ceremony of the Celestial Sect of Wonders."

After he completed his sentence, everyone was left surprised and stunned at his words. Only Pang Jie's expression changed after hearing his words.

The void above everyone's head suddenly rippled vigorously like boiling water.

Just like the tides, the purple cloud mist started to sweep across the entire sky as they expanded and encroached into every bit of the sky, dying it an auspicious purple color.

Everyone was just shocked as they watched the sea of purple clouds which was at least a good hundred thousand acres. If one were to pay a bit more attention to what was within to the sea of purple clouds, one would notice a tall white jade-like mountain which was a few thousand feet tall.

A frightening amount of energy which was boundless like the heavens and mighty like the oceans rippled across the sky!

Within the sea of purple clouds, one would be able to see treasure

trees, treasure towers, treasure swords et cetera. They were all part of the countless silhouettes that one would be able to identify within the purple clouds.

And on the white-jade spiritual mountain, one would be able to see fountains and springs as well as well-trimmed trees and shrubs, just as one would expect from a dreamland.

However, at the foot of the mountain, which was still far above the rest of the masses, countless gales and thunderstorms congregated as they formed both the steps onto the spiritual mountain as well as the security measures to deny access for any intruders.

Before the rest could regain their composure from the shock, amidst the rippling of the purple clouds, the majestic and humongous spiritual mountain suddenly started to drop and was going straight for the land beneath it.

And it happened that Xiao Yan, Xiao Budian, Master Cyclone and Yu Wanfeng were all below it!

Fortunately, Xiao Budian and Xiao Yan had already understood Lin Feng's plans and with a grin, they disappeared from the area of effect of Mount Yujing in a flash.

And just as Master Cyclone and Yu Wanfeng wanted to dodge away from Mount Yujing, they found themselves rooted to the ground and unable to move!

Let's not talk about transporting through void and space. The mana within their Nascent Soul Stage cultivator bodies was sealed and was unable to circulate.

In fact, their entire body was numb and they could not even lift up their pinkie!

"No!" Both Master Cyclone and Yu Wanfeng shouted in despair as they watched Mount Yujing landed on them, crushing them into smithereens.

Even the Nine Heavens Formless Squall and the Xuanming Primordial Water were unable to protect them.

Both of them were Nascent Soul Stage Grandmasters but they did not even had the chance to split their own souls. All they could do was to wait for their bodies to be crushed and for their souls to disintegrate into nothing!

They did not have to split their own soul because Mount Yujing would do it for them!

"What the....?! Even the mountain of the Celestial Sect of Wonders can move?" Everyone was in a daze after the previous scene as they stared blankly at Mount Yujing.

On the peak of Mount Yujing, Lin Feng, dressed in a purple robe, was quietly erected on top of a treasure tree which was big enough to cover most of the sky above.

In the pupil of his eyes, one could see chaos. But in the next moment, the chaos disintegrated to form the four big elements (Earth, Water, Fire and Wind). And in the next instant, the four big elements settled down to transform into a new and habitable world.

None of these was visible to the rest as it belonged to the sea of self-awareness within Lin Feng. Only he could see the silhouette of a little infant, who was wearing a purple robe, within him.

And the facial features of the little infant was exactly the same as the one Lin Feng had when he was a kid.

As the infant opened his eyes, his dark pupils were completely free from any impurities that the world had and was crystal clear. It was as though it was symbolic of how the world had just been created and there was a brand new beginning!

"The Nascent Soul Stage is indeed filled with its mysteries and wonders." Lin Feng smiled gently. It was during the instant when Pang Jie appeared, his original body on Mount Yujing had finally survived the tribulations of the Nine Heavenly Lightnings and succeeded in bearing the nascent soul!

After attaining the Nascent Soul stage, Lin Feng's connection with the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree, Mount Yujing and the Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds had reached a new level.

The new stage also allowed Lin Feng to further his understanding

of the mysteries of space and void. That was how he managed to coordinate with the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree, which then allowed him to transport Mount Yujing through void and space whenever he wanted!

From now on, he could transport anything to and fro from the different realms as he wished.

Lin Feng looked down at the masses who were still in shock as he spoke plainly, "For the comrades and fellow cultivators who had came here to grace my humble ceremony, I am very honored by your presence and I welcome you all to stay. As for the intruders and the unwanted guests, I want you all to stay as well."

After he spoke, Lin Feng lifted his hand and made a grabbing motion in the direction where Zhu Yi, Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao were fighting with Kong Chang.

Yu Qianshan's goatee was erected as he glared at Lin Feng with much hatred, "Lin Feng, the Yu Family will never let you go for killing my brother!"

Even in the legendary sects like the Great Void Sect and the Mount Shu Sword Sect, their Immortal Stage cultivators would not reveal themselves easily.

If the Aurous Core Stage cultivators are the supporting pillars of a Sect, then the Nascent Soul Stage cultivators would be the marble slab which the pillars were supporting. They formed the leadership rank of the Sect and decided the actual reserve in the

strength of a Sect.

If we were to put it in the perspective of the Aeolus Sect and the Yu Family, losing a Nascent Soul Stage cultivator would be comparable to losing an arm!

Such hatred would be sufficient to mobilise the entire Yu Family.

Lin Feng's expression was plain as he said coldly, "Of course, the Yu Family will not give up like this. Because they won't be losing only one Nascent Soul Stage cultivator today. They will be losing two."

Yu Qianshan's expression changed as he heard Lin Feng continued, "And this is merely the beginning."

As Lin Feng talked, he suddenly spreaded out his five fingers.

As an unbelievable loud sound shook the entire universe and the void spaces residing at its corners, the void in front of Lin Feng collapsed into countless streaks of the natural elements as fire, water, wind and earth all surged towards Yu Qianshan.

Yu Qianshan let out an awkward shriek as he called upon a voluminous amount of Xuanming Primordial Water to form a barrier in a mad attempt to parry the elemental blows.

The dark blue Xuanming Primordial Water kept on coagulating and concentrating till it formed an ice shield which was almost

matte black. The shield radiated an aged aura of authority which withstood the test of time.

Xuanming Magic Shield!

The most powerful defensive spell in the mantra of the Yu Family!

But it was useless! Totally useless!

It took only a blink of an eye for both Yu Qianshan and his Xuanming Magic Shield to be engulfed in the current of elements as they disappeared without a trace into the void!

Chapter 217: Unparalleled! Unparalleled!

In the Eastern sky, the energy from the rising sun contrasted against the dead silence from the plains.

Once in awhile, there would be weird noises heard and they belonged to the sound of people swallowing their saliva.

Everyone was shocked and stunned by what had just happened.

Yu Qianshan, a supreme cultivator who was stronger than Yu Wanfeng, was an old man in the middle level of the Nascent Soul Stage but was slayed with ease by Lin Feng.

He was slayed in a split second and did not even managed to put up any resistance. He was not even given a chance to flee.

A supreme cultivator in the middle level of the Nascent Soul Stage was vaporized like this without a trace.

Previously, people suspected that it was due to the immense strength and power of Mount Yujing that allowed Lin Feng to destroy Master Cyclone and Yu Wanfeng with ease. But now that he had exhibited his ability to destroy Yu Qianshan in the blink of an eye, the fear in everyone's heart became real.

Yang Tonghui's eyes were glowing as he exclaimed, "To slay a cultivator at the middle of the Nascent Soul Stage would require the power of a supreme cultivator in the Immortal Soul Stage. I

had always thought that he was a man of mysteries and it seems like I'm right!"

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster's face darkened as he understood that the tides had changed. Now with Lin Feng supporting Xiao Yan, he knew that the ball was no longer in the Sword of Radiance Sect's court.

In the entire Sword of Radiance Sect, they only had a single sword master that was at the Immortal Soul Stage.

"For sitting on the fence and hesitating, we will definitely pay the price." Wu Yunliang's expression was even darker than the one on the Azure Clouds Grandmaster's face.

The Flying Flames Grandmaster thought for a short moment, "I might have duelled with their elder but it was merely a single move. In fact, I was disadvantaged in that duel. Does this mean he won't come and look for me?"

The Cloud Elephant Grandmaster could only wished to turn back time as he totally regretted his bold and unethical move.

Why was I so lowly and greedy? Now that I had stood up and actually attacked them, I won't be able to evade from any of the responsibility.

As the scene which Yu Qianshan was killed by Lin Feng in the blink of an eye replayed in his head, the Cloud Elephant

Grandmaster felt a chill ran down his spine as he began fleeing for his poor and worthless life.

However, he was not that fortunate as Lin Feng had not forgotten about him. "I'm sorry but it's too late to run!"

The Avatar of Ares belonged to the system and hence was different from the usual split that cultivators had. The power of the Avatar of Ares would grow along with the progress in Lin Feng's training and did not require any further refining or upgrading. Hence, the Avatar of Ares was also at the Nascent Soul Stage as of now.

And not only that, it was at the limits of physical strength of a cultivator in the Nascent Soul Stage!

A Demonic Lord descended from the Immemorial Demons with the strongest physical body could at best match the Avatar of Ares' physical prowess!

The body of the Avatar flickered and in the next moment, his body became a single punch that flew towards the Cloud Elephant Grandmaster. His body was moving so fast and with so much force that it created sonic waves which rippled away from its body, exploding the air and void around it, generating a sand storm in the deserted plains.

The Cloud Elephant Grandmaster already had half of its body in the void as he was about to flee.

However, he was physically tossed out of the void by the insane punch which the Avatar of Ares had planted onto him.

"How dare you!" the Cloud Elephant Grandmaster exclaimed in fury as he was angered. He bumped both of his fists together and a white gigantic elephant which was the size of a mountain, stampeded towards the Avatar of Ares, shaking its head during its movement to demonstrate its fury and prowess.

The Avatar of Ares was not daunted by the charging elephant and instead remained still as he stood proudly in mid-air. All he did was to lift his right fist nonchalantly as he threw it forward!

"Heavenly Hammer of the Eight Trigram! Hammer of the Chaos!"

The body of the Avatar was surging with energy and vitality. With a radiance brighter than the Sun, in a single punch, the Avatar destroyed everything that stood between its fist and the Cloud Elephant Grandmaster, including the white elephant. Everything was smashed and stacked like the debris of the primal chaos of the universe!

The white elephant did not even had the chance to moan before it disintegrated into spiritual energy. The Cloud Elephant Grandmaster shared a similar fate as his physical body exploded upon contact with the Avatar's fist.

The Nascent Soul of the Cloud Elephant Grandmaster had wanted to flee but the Avatar was faster as he grabbed onto the soul and squeezed tightly. Under the pressure, the Nascent Soul

almost shattered as it lost all energy to even attempt to explode.

Zhang Hai, who was fighting with Zhu Yi, trembled at the sight of this as he thought, "Such domineering abilities! Only the Emperor and the Marquis would stand a chance against him.. How in the world did Young Master Zhu Yi find such a powerful man to be his Master?"

"I'm not his competitor. Better flee now than never!" This thought flickered through Zhang Hai's mind as he lifted his calligraphy brush and painted the Dun character (Flee/Escape) before vanishing into the void.

His technique was quick and much faster than the ordinary Nascent Soul cultivator.

"You want to run? Don't even bother." Lin Feng lifted his right hand and used it like a blade as he made a slashing motion. The power of the Fences of the Heavens rippled towards where Zhang Hai was and immediately, it sealed the power of the Dun character.

Instantly, Zhang Hai's body was caught within the point of intersection between the two dimensions.

Half of his body was still in the real world while the other was caught within the currents of the void.

The sheer power between the dimensions was applying pressure from the tiny crack between the dimensions and his body, despite

being a Nascent Soul Stage cultivator, was twisted into a messy clump as blood splurged out in a fountain-like manner.

Zhang Hai's body was thrown out from the slit of the void but his injuries did not reduce the amount of anger and hatred which he bore towards Lin Feng. He threw away any ideas about fleeing as he lifted his brush to write an enormous Ren character (Human/Man).

Zhang Hai spoke with a solemn and authoritative voice, "The sharpest item in the world is not the blade of a sword but the tip of the brush (or pen). The strongest power in the world does not originate from the Gods but from the heart!"

The Nascent Soul Stage Magic Item, the Spring and Autumn Brush.

The most powerful character in the Heaven and Man Manual was the Ren, "人".

The character's power oozed out as it enveloped the entire world before seemingly splitting our world into three portions (Translator's Note: Study the shape of the character) with its immense power.

"How laughable."

Lin Feng shook his head as he let out a laugh, "When they used the word heart, they do not mean the heart of a single man but

rather the heart of the masses. How could you misrepresent something as important as this. If you can't even comprehend such basic wisdom, I don't see how you're qualified to even discuss the matters of morality and passion."

Lin Feng extended his finger and immediately the Ren character vanished into nothing. And following which, Zhang Hai saw how he was enveloped by purple clouds which entrapped him in an independent small world.

Zhang Hai was like a bird trapped in a cage as he kept on trying to break free from this enclosure. Character after characters were written using the Spring and Autumn Brush but to no avail.

Instead it was the small world which was formed from the purple clouds that kept shrinking as though it was the end of the world.

Zhang Hai stared at the shrinking "world" which he was caught in with much fear but he knew that struggling would be futile as he closed his eyes and awaited for his death.

Kong Chang's eyes were blood-red as he gave a death-stare at Lin Feng. However, his expression was increasingly composed before he gave out a loud howl as though it was intended to chase away all his fears and hesitation. "In my batch of Sword Cultivators, we hold onto nothing but our swords. We will charge forward and relent to nothing."

"Leader of the Celestial Sect, watch out for my sword!"

Kong Chang's clothes vaporized as he transformed into a single blinding sword radiance. The radiance this time round was so much greater than the one previously when he was facing Kang Nanhua.

The sword Qi which had been accumulated for thousands of years was released in an instant, and of course, his body would be the first thing destroyed!

At the center of the sword radiance, a five year old boy charged forward with a sword. It was none other than Kong Chang's nascent soul!

Facing Kong Chang's trump card, Lin Feng was not even in the least bothered as he simply activated the Fences of the Heavens as an invisible barrier blocked the path of Kong Chang's powerful sword radiance.

Kong Chang's sword radiance was like the waves of a tsunami pounding onto the shoreline but just as how the shoreline never crumbled, the countless radiance were redirected but were never able to bypass the Fences of the Heavens.

"Stabilize!" Lin Feng waved his hand as the formless Fences of the Heavens took form and transformed into countless purple clouds. They encircled around the broken fragments of the sword radiance along with Kong Chang's nascent soul before transforming into another Celestial Small World again.

A beam of white light suddenly surged across the sky as it

penetrated through the sea of violent purple clouds before landing on Lin Feng's body.

The one who had made his move was none other than Pang Jie.

Pang Jie donned a solemn expression as he placed both his hands behind his back. He was standing on a patch of void and if one were to examine his forehead closely, one would notice a circular dot of light which was like a small circular mirror.

The circular mirror was flashing so brilliantly that it gave off the impression that it was like the Sun shining onto the world beneath it.

The Great Void Techniques: The Great Void Treasure Mirror of the Heavens!

A powerful aura and impression radiated from the depths of the mirror as it was seemingly like the eye in the pale blue sky.

The eye gave no semblance of any emotions as it stared frowning from the sky with nothing but authority.

The eye gave off the feeling that it had seen time itself as though it had control over everything.

It gave off the impression that the eye could destroy anything within the sight of its master!

Even Lin Feng could sense that his mana became slower whenever the mirror shone onto him. The suppressive ability of the mirror was very real indeed.

"Hmm...I'm impressed. The Great Void Sect is indeed powerful in its own way." Lin Feng laughed, "But it's not anywhere near what it is needed to be!"

He lifted his hand and the powers of the Fences of the Heavens surged once again as he isolated the glow from Pang Jie's mirror before performing a Dual Dimension Vacuum Charm.

The positioning of the spell was at the line of symmetry on Pang Jie's body!

The activation of this spell would split his body into half and switched their positions!

"Huh?" Pang Jie could sense the erratic movement of the void currents around his body and immediately tried to stabilize the currents with his Nascent Soul Stage powers. But soon enough, he realized he had no control over the splitting of void and immediately, he knew that he had to make a move!

Upon attaining the Nascent Soul Stage, Lin Feng had acquired a very in-depth understanding of space and void and thus, no Nascent Soul Stage cultivator would be able to parry or handle his attack!

Essentially, he was unparalleled below the Immortal Soul Stage!

"Enough!"

Pang Jie's expression changed as he moved his body and a silhouette flew out from the top of his head in a flash.

The silhouette was a good hundred feet tall and wore a magic cloak which was stitched with sun, moon, stars, oceans and mountains. It was stepping on the white clouds beneath the Heaven.

However, there was nothing on the silhouette's face. No eyes, no nose, no mouth. Nothing.

But it was the very fact that it lacked any facial feature that gave it an aura of supremacy as though it was the only true being in the world, the personal embodiment of nothing but the Tao!

It was the Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra! The symbol of a cultivator at the final level of the Nascent Soul Stage.

Just with this mantra, Pang Jie was able to destroy everyone present!

But there was a single exception.

"The Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra?" Lin Feng identified it immediately. "The All-Under-Heavens Strider and the final level of the Nascent Soul Stage... I must admit that this is already quite impressive!"

"But it is still futile and useless when they are placed in front of me."

Lin Feng extended his right hand with his fingers extended out, before suddenly squeezing his fist tightly.

Pang Jie's Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra lost all of its authority and supremacy the moment Lin Feng squeezed his fist as the void where Pang Jie was at was pulverized instantly. Countless currents of elements surged as though the universe had reverted to its primal state of chaos!

The Mantra was drowned in the currents of elements and crushed by the impact from them!

The strongest ability of a cultivator at the final level of the Nascent Soul Stage, the Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra, was destroyed and disintegrated!

Chapter 218: Destruction. In The Blink Of An Eye

The ability to form the Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra was the symbol of a final level Nascent Soul Stage cultivator.

Once the time was ripe, the cultivator would then refine the Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra before combining with his or her own Nascent Soul to complete the evolution to the Immortal Soul.

The Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra represented the combination of all of the cultivator's abhijna and mana. It was a combination of incredible power.

Below the Immortal Soul Stage and within all the different levels of all the different stages, the one with the biggest gap would be the difference between the middle and final level of the Nascent Soul Stage. And the very reason for that was because of the existence of the Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra.

For Pang Jie, he had an extremely strong and mysterious aura within his Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra.

Under the vast and open sky, it was like a lid to the entire world as it loomed above almost everything. It also radiated an immense authority as though it had the powers to govern everything in our world.

It also seemingly symbolized the impartiality of the Heavenly Tao because everyone had to submit themselves to the rules and law of the Heavenly Tao.

The All-Under-Heavens Strider, Pang Jie had studied the highest and most difficult of manuals in the Great Void Sect and was definitely one of the top cultivators among all the final level Nascent Soul Stage cultivators.

But right now, when he had to face the Lin Feng's currents of elements, even his powerful Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra could not put up against the chaotic and destructive powers of the currents.

Pang Jie donned a serious look as he gave a long sigh, before his figure slowly blurred into the surroundings.

It was this blurring effect that allowed Pang Jie to avoid being destroyed by the powerful currents which Lin Feng had sent.

Just as the currents of elements were about to come into contact with Pang Jie, he faded his physical body and escaped into a separate dimension temporarily, leaving nothing but a mirage of his old self!

And the moment which the currents had stabilized and no longer posed a threat to Pang Jie, he solidified again and returned to where he was.

The Great Void Sect had a repository full of powerful and formidable spells with limitless permutations. The one which Pang Jie had used required him to understand the Art of Metaphysical Transformation before he could hide himself in an alternate dimension as he willed.

With the help of the Art of Metaphysical Transformation, Pang Jie managed to evade Lin Feng's attack. Decisively, he kept his Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra.

The truth was harsh but Pang Jie had accepted the fact that the Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra, which had allowed him to outfight any opponent in the Nascent Soul Stage, was powerless against Lin Feng.

Pang Jie calmed himself down before putting his palms together and muttered, "Magic Treasure, reveal yourself."

And following which, he flipped his palms and made sure they were facing upwards. A bright mixture of colors which included black, white, yellow, green, red and blue flashed as a frightening amount of mana rippled across the surroundings.

Magic treasure! Only a magic treasure would possess such an astounding entrance!

The entrance was almost similar to the entrance of an Immortal Soul cultivator!

Xiao Yan's Heaven and Earth Mirror, Zhu Yi's Desolate Nine Thunder Divine Web, Xiao Budian's Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness became restless after sensing the aura of the magic treasure.

All of these Nascent Soul Stage magic items had revealed emotions which were very human. It was a simple display of awe and veneration when a human met his or her superior.

They behaved like the subjects of an Imperial Court facing their Emperor. If the Emperor wanted them to die, they must die! That was the very fear that they had!

Soon, the colorful glow died down but the aura of supremacy was increasingly stronger.

Amidst the colorful treasure glow, a one foot long small sword began to reveal its shape and size.

The Great Void Sect Magic Treasure, the Six Appearances Sword!

A human voice was heard from the Six Appearances Sword as it questioned Lin Feng, "A formidable feat it is to be able to summon the currents of elements... Who are you?"

Lin Feng studied the Six Appearances Sword with much interest. After all, this was the first magic treasure he had managed to lay his eyes on since coming to this world.

After hearing the arrogant tone of the sword, Lin Feng smiled gently as he could not even bother replying to the sword. Immediately, he flicked his finger and a dot of light flew up into the sky before expanding rapidly.

Countless rays of light intertwined with one another in a very mystical track and pattern to form an enormous spell formation.

Within the spell formation, countless runes and sketches floated. When they combined and overlapped with one another, they constructed a humongous black-white picture of sorts which loomed over a few hundred square feet of area.

Pang Jie and the Six Appearances Sword were also entrapped within the spell formation. Pang Jie shared with the sword, "This is their Sect's spell formation."

The sword once again spoke in an aged voice, "Too much form and nothing practical. It won't be able to stop me."

A loud humming sound began as the shape of the Six Appearances Sword changed. The once colorful glow was reduced to a single green glow.

At the center of the green glow, the figure of the Six Appearances Sword had disappeared. But the sound of the dragon's roar could be heard as a hundred feet long three storey boat emerged from the green light.

The gigantic boat was bursting with destructive energy as it pulverized all the spiritual energy surrounding it, leaving nothing but an empty void wherever it passed.

The huge boat gave off the impression that nothing could stop it in its way.

The First Appearance of the Six Appearances Sword, the Soaring Dragon's Boat!

Pang Jie leapt up and landed on the boat as the boat transformed into a green treasure glow, seeking to penetrate through the walls of the spell formation.

Seeing this, Lin Feng nodded his head lightly, "The magic treasure which an Immortal Soul Stage cultivator could craft is indeed remarkable."

But too bad. It would still be useless!

Lin Feng muttered, "The Two Elements of Creation Formation, Open!"

"The Change of the Heaven and Earth, Rise!"

Countless Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds surged into the spell formation as they formed a vast sky which loomed above the heads of Pang Jie and the Soaring Dragon's Boat.

The speed at which the Soaring Dragon's Boat was travelling at was insanely fast as it travelled across countless space-time dimensions in the blink of an eye. But no matter how fast it was travelling at, it was still trapped under the same patch of sky, never to escape from this world.

"It seems that this spell formation is more than meets the eye!" The Soaring Dragon's Boat passed off the remark in surprise. And as the green glow flickered, into a white glow, its form began to change again.

At the center of the white glow, the hundred feet long giant boat shrunk continuously until it became a three feet long sword.

The Second Appearance of the Six Appearances Sword, Sword of the Righteous Way

Governing the Heavens with the laws of the Righteous Way.

Pang Jie extended his hand to grab onto the Sword of the Righteous Way as he did a forceful slashing motion at the Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds.

Immediately a white and shiny sword radiance surged towards the ceiling of the world which Lin Feng had created. The radiance was so powerful that it looked as if it would create a huge gash in the ceiling of the world.

Wherever the sword radiance had passed, all spiritual energy would be destroyed leaving a track of black nothingness.

"Hmm... The power from your sword is comparable to my attack on the Formation Bursting Drum back then." Lin Feng smiled, "If the Heaven and Earth Change only had the Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds, I'm afraid you might have just won."

"But right now, you're about to witness the true powers of the Heaven and Earth Change."

Endless sunset-yellow glow began to lit up within the Two Elements of Creation Formation as the Central Wutu Divine Light transformed into the thick and heavy land within the spell formation.

The Heaven and Earth had finally been completed and they would now coexist together.

The vast sky could encompass anything.

The heavy and big land could carry countless lives.

It was a complete world with the Heaven above and the Earth below. There was perfect harmony and there was nothing unnatural about this artificial world which Lin Feng had crafted.

The powerful sword radiance which the Sword of the Righteous Way was like a powerful gale. It could destroy everything in our

world but not the world itself.

Instead, Lin Feng's inclusion of the Central Wutu Divine Light had created a powerful natural energy within the world which bullied both Pang Jie and the Sword of the Righteous Way.

"What a powerful and domineering formation. Even if the real Formation Bursting Drum were here, I don't think it would be able to hack this formation apart." The Sword of the Righteous Way muttered quickly, "Change!"

In the depth of the white glow, a eerie blue glow soon replaced it as the shape of the sword began to change again, to reveal the third appearance of the magic treasure.

A blue shield appeared beside Pang Jie, radiating a blue glow which formed a ball that encapsulated Pang Jie.

The Third Appearance of the Six Appearances Sword, Acalanātha Void Shield.

The world outside might be going through destruction but as long as one resided in the Acalanātha void, one would be indestructible!

The shape of the shield immediately demonstrated its strong defensive capabilities as it managed to absorb the powerful blows from the Two Elements of Creation Formation, Heaven and Earth Change. But Pang Jie and the magic treasure were still unable to

escape from the formation.

Everyone who were outside of the formation were just staring blankly at the gigantic spell formation. While they were already used to the shock and surprises that Lin Feng and the Celestial Sect of Wonders had to offer, they were still amazed right now.

That was an actual magic treasure that Lin Feng was fighting against. Both Pang Jie and the magic treasure might not have lost but they were definitely imprisoned within the spell formation.

Regardless of whether they were the people that were against Lin Feng, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster and the Flying Flames Grandmaster, or the people who supported Lin Feng, Yang Tonghui from the Heavenly Master Sword Sect, or the neutral party like Wu Yunliang and the rest, all of them were silent.

The people who were against Lin Feng and the Celestial Sect of Wonders were only swarming to find trouble with Lin Feng earlier had been destroyed in the blink of an eye.

The Yu Family's Six Granduncle, Yu Wanfeng, was dead.

The Yu Family's Five Granduncle, Yu Qianshan, was dead.

The Aeolus Sect's Nascent Soul Stage Grandmaster, Master Cyclone, was dead.

The Cloud Elephant Grandmaster had his physical body exploded

and his nascent soul captured.

The Household Manager of Marquis of Xuanji's house, Zhang Hai, was captured alive.

Kong Chang of the Mount Shu Sword Sect had his physical body destroyed and nascent soul captured.

Except for the All-Under-Heavens Strider, Pang Jie who had mastered the Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra and possessed the Six Appearances Sword, none of them managed to survive Lin Feng's first move!

Even the strongest of them all, Pang Jie, along with his Six Appearances Sword, was entrapped within the spell formation.

Lin Feng was still composed as though nothing had happened. He did not even bother looking at Pang Jie or the Six Appearances Sword but rather shifted his concentration onto Zhang Hai and Kong Chang whom he had already sealed in their Celestial Small Worlds.

The Celestial Small Worlds were still shrinking and collapsing into a smaller sphere. Seeing how his end was near, Zhang Hai had already submitted to fate as the lack of hope was apparent on his pale face.

Lin Feng stood there expressionless as he thought, "If you don't appear soon, he is going to die."

Just at this moment, a voice rang, "Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, please show mercy."

The voice was sharp but the sheer mana in it ripped apart all void and space directly.

An aged man appeared in front of everyone. He was clad in a rosy red coat and he had a very pale face. He did not have any beard or moustache, which revealed his identity as a eunuch.

But the powerful rippling of his mana also revealed his identity as a Nascent Soul Stage cultivator.

"It's the Great Zhou Empire's Grand Ceremonial Eunuch, Mei Wulang, also known as Eunuch Mei!" Someone immediately recognized him as the leader of eunuchs in the Great Zhou Empire's palace. He was very trusted by the Zhou Emperor Liang Pan.

Some of them were excited by his entrance, "Please tell me that the Great Zhou Empire wants to fight with the Celestial Sect of Wonders!"

Zhang Hai could only represent Marquis of Xuanji, Zhu Hongwu but Mei Wulang could represent the intentions of the emperor himself.

Lin Feng remained unfazed as he stared at Mei Wulang quietly.

Chapter 219: Gifts

"Eunuch Mei is also here... Unless the Great Zhou Empire also wants to go to war with the Celestial Sect of Wonders?"

The surrounding masses began to discuss as more and more unbelievable theories were thrown around.

Lin Feng did not show any sign of fear as he simply stared at Mei Wulang calmly.

Mei Wulang moved to a place not too far away from Lin Feng and stood still over there. Out of a sudden, he bowed in front of Lin Feng with much respect, "I, the humble servant of the Emperor (Translator's Note: Humble way of expressing his respect for the Emperor), Mei Wulang, am here to offer a gift to the leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders to congratulate him on the opening of his Sect. It is a simple gift and hence, I seek your forgiveness."

After hearing his words, everyone was shocked as they stared hard at Mei Wulang, wondering if he was being sincere or sarcastic.

But the more they examined him, the more they felt that something was unusual.

Mei Wulang was so sincere and humble, his smile so gentle and warm that it was borderline unreal. In this world, it was only probably the Immortal Soul Stage cultivators that could draw this amount of respect and admiration from Mei Wulang.

Most importantly, Mei Wulang was alone. Although he was a very famous cultivator at the final level of the Nascent Soul Stage, Pang Jie's plight had shown that even the cultivators at that level would not be able to put up a fight against Lin Feng.

If he had wanted to pit himself against Lin Feng, he would definitely not approach Lin Feng in such a manner.

Some of the people had begun to look around to find the legendary Great Zhou Empire's Divine Martial Army but they were nowhere to be seen.

Mei Wulang completely ignored the shocked look on the people's faces as he smiled and continued, "Whatever that Mr Zhang had just done, they were all simply a misunderstanding. He had misunderstood the intentions of Marquis of Xuanji and had disrupted the Opening Ceremony of the Celestial Sect of Wonders. Hence, the Emperor had ordered myself to come forth to express our apologies."

He gently clapped his hand and the void behind him cracked open as a group of people brought a few gift boxes forward.

These people were at best in the Foundation Establishment Stage. Therefore, they also symbolized the lack of malicious intent.

As they opened the gift boxes one by one, one would be able to notice that all the gifts were materials to craft powerful magic items. Although the gift boxes were only about half a meter long,

the interior space was a separate dimension of its own and hence, could contain a lot of things.

Mei Wulang, the Great Zhou Empire Palace Superintendent, recited out himself, "Restrained Heat Flint, one ton, Amherst Lamprophyre, a ton, Green Moss Stone Marrow, one ton, Stalactite Crystals, one ton...

Everyone's jaws dropped when they realized the gifts that the Zhou Empire had given to Lin Feng were not a joke and were actual expensive and precious minerals.

They were all very precious resources for crafting and the quantity which were given to Lin Feng for not in the least bit small.

With the reserves that the Great Zhou Empire had, the tonnes of materials were definitely not raw minerals but rather processed ones which only bore the essence of the minerals.

The Restrained Heat Flint was one of the the best fire-type materials for crafting fire-type magic items. One would have to look for an erupting volcano and to cool its lava before refining it to acquire the Restrained Heat Flint. From ten tonne of volcanic ash, one could only refine a single kilogram of Restrained Heat Flint.

The Amherst Lamprophyre would be created from the refining of rocks which had been struck by the natural lightning. Manmade lightning casted using spells would not be able to achieve the

desired effects. Hence, one could appreciate the rarity of such resources.

The Green Moss Stone Marrow needed one to excavate the stone fossils of a ten-thousand year old tree before they turned into charcoal and following which, to refine and extract the essence from the stone fossils.

The Stalactite Crystals' rarity was commonly known as they were the same stalactites that we learnt in the standard natural geography.

Any of these resources or materials would give an insanely high price of ten red talismans for a single kilogram.

And what the Great Zhou Empire just did was to dump a single ton of everything to Lin Feng.

And Mei Wulang was not done.

"...Ice Fantasy Supreme Rock, hundred pieces. Glory of the Beginning crystals, ten pieces, Jade Azure Sand, five bags, Matte Glowless Metal, ten kilograms."

After he had mentioned all these items, everyone was left speechless. For some of them, their eyes were red with greed as they stared at the boxes which the servants were holding onto.

If not for the deterrence factor arising from both the Celestial

Sect of Wonders and the Great Zhou Empire, they would have dashed forward to plunder all these items.

In fact, if not for the insane abilities that Lin Feng had displayed, they would have totally stolen the items.

It was because these items were really that precious.

A hundred pieces, ten pieces, five bags and ten kilograms sounded as if they would not be able to match the price of the previous gifts.

But for those who truly understood the value of these treasures would know that the value of any of these four items would beat the previous items hands down.

The Ice Fantasy Supreme Rock was the best ice-type material out there. It was condensed by aeons and aeons of ice and had even blended into the concept of space and time. It was so rare that it usually took only a single fragment of a small rock for everyone to fight against one another.

The Glory of the Beginning crystals was said to be one of the mystical items that were created in the midst of the creation of the Heaven and Earth. It was said to contain the purest form of spiritual energy and had the power to change fate.

The Jade Azure Sand and the Matte Glowless Metal were ranked as the Six Mystical Metals and were all insanely good ingredients

for crafting the flying swords. As long as one were to put in one or two scoops of the metals, the strength of the flying sword would increase by a single notch, and the sword would also gain special properties.

Seeing these items, regardless of whether they were the cultivators from the smaller sects or even Yang Tonghui, the Flying Flames Grandmaster and the Azure Clouds Grandmaster, they were all very much envious and attracted by the gifts.

The three of them looked at one another and a single thought ran through all their heads, "It seems like the Great Zhou Empire have to splurge quite a bit."

The Great Zhou Empire had indeed invested quite a bit as following the precious minerals, they continued to deliver twenty purple deity robes and many other powerful magic items.

Everything that Liang Pan gave came in sets. This meant that the Purple Deity Robes, the Ceremony Sealing Swords, the Fortune Jade and Pearls and the Panlong Jade Belt all came in twenty pieces.

Even though the Great Zhou Empire might have an abundance of reserves, taking out so many of the treasures in a single go would still be very painful for them.

After the recitation was done, Mei Wulang retrieved a white jade scroll from his sleeves and humbly spoke to Lin Feng, "The Emperor knows that Mr Zhang might have disrespected you and

ordered myself to deliver this jade scroll as a form of apology."

As the jade scroll opened, it let out a blinding white light. And in the center of the white light, a crown glistened and projected two silhouette above it. One of it radiated an aura of righteousness while the other radiated an aura of viciousness.

The two silhouettes combined and melted into one another, generating a violent rippling of energy which was so strong that it looked as if it could tear apart all void space.

The Nascent Soul Stage magic item, the Golden Crown of Angels and Demons!

Wu Yunliang and Meng Chaoran who were standing aside look at one another before sighing. Meng Chaoran spoke, "If the purpose of all of these is to buy back Zhang Hai's life, it would indeed be a bad deal."

"His life? It would be more than enough to buy ten lives." Wu Yunliang nodded his head, "The Great Zhou Empire wants to create an alliance with the Celestial Sect of Wonders!"

Meng Chaoran frowned, "But the Marquis of Xuanji and Lin Feng do not seem to get along well. Cracks will definitely form on this relationship. Liang Pan would not dampen the heart of his loyal subordinate just to get into the good books of an outsider."

"But before the relationship is fully fractured, both parties will

have a common interest." Wu Yunliang's eyes glowed as he muttered in a deep voice, "Befriend the distant enemies and attack the near ones. This is the most simplest of logic but it is also most commonly right."

Meng Chaoran repeated Wu Yunliang's words in his mind and immediately understood what he meant.

Mount Yujing could move through time and space but the geopolitics of the world was largely settled already. The only blank space left was Mount Kunlun.

Lin Feng's roots were set in Mount Kunlun and both the Celestial Sect and the Zhou Empire were separated by the Great Qin Empire and the Mount Shu Sword Sect. Even if they had any disputes, there would be no immediate to resolve them. Instead, they could sandwich all powers that were between them.

Now that Lin Feng and the Yu Family as well as the Mount Shu Sword Sect had developed unfriendly relationships, the Great Zhou Empire found the time even more opportune than before to get into Lin Feng's good books.

Of course, that was under the premise that Lin Feng had showcased his abilities, and must be worth the time and money to buy over.

Meng Chaoran looked up immediately and stared at Wu Yunliang, "Unless the Great Zhou Empire intends to attack the Great Qin Empire?"

Wu Yunliang nodded his head as his eyes glowed with ambition, "This is the golden opportunity for our Ethereal Mountain Sect."

Meng Chaoran suddenly spoke, "But the abilities and power which the Celestial Sect of Wonders had just showcased was no more powerful than the Sword of Radiance Sect and the Intense Flaming Sword Sect. I don't see why the Zhou Empire would splurge so much on them."

Wu Yunliang replied, "Maybe there might be other reasons...Let's just watch the show."

His heart turned cold when he suddenly recalled a line that Lin Feng said when Zhang Hai was about to fight with Zhu Yi. "The Great Zhou Empire, at the end of the day, is still under the control of the Emperor, Liang Pan."

It sounded confusing and irrelevant previously but now when it was placed in the context of the current situation, Wu Yunliang realized that Lin Feng might have predicted that something like this would happen.

Lin Feng stared at Mei Wulang and his servants calmly before giving a gentle smile, "I welcome all friendly visitors."

He pointed at the Celestial Small World which Zhang Hai was in and instantly released the completely-despaired Zhang Hai.

Zhang Hai stared at Lin Feng for a good long while before looking at Mei Wulang. Afterwards, he let out a long sigh and kept quiet.

Emperor Liang Pan's big spendings definitely meant that the Marquis Xuanji would have minimally agreed to the plan.

The fact that the Marquis did not inform Zhang Hai meant that he wanted him to test out the true abilities of Lin Feng.

From the look of things, Zhang Hai had managed to understand some of Lin Feng's abilities and hence, this was not a wasted trip.

But to finish his mission in such a manner, Zhang Hai could not help but laugh at himself. But all of these thoughts and reflex actions remained within himself.

After releasing Zhang Hai, Lin Feng continued and released Kong Chang.

Seeing this, everyone was at a loss for words.

Even Mei Wulang could not help but frowned, "If Lin Feng dares to whack Kong Chang into this state, it already means that he was not afraid of any act of revenge from the Mount Shu Sword Sect... But why is he releasing Kong Chang now?"

Kong Chang was also shocked and wary of this sudden act of kindness, "What do you want from me..."

Lin Feng did not wait for him to finish his sentence and immediately used a clump of purple clouds to wrap around his nascent soul. Following which, he delivered him to Yang Tonghui and spoke in an utmost dignified manner, "Today is the opening ceremony of my Sect. We have seen enough blood today. I'm afraid I have to trouble my dear friend Yang Tonghui to send Master Kong back to Mount Shu."

Yang Tonghui was caught off guard and a peculiar expression formed on his face.

Kong Chang, landing into the hands of the Heavenly Master Sword Sect could be both a golden opportunity and also a recipe for disaster.

"Unless he wants me to..." Yang Tonghui thought as his expression became even more confused.

Lin Feng, on the other hand, left it there as he looked at the horizon in the distant and muttered softly, "My old friend, why don't you come out now?"

In the distant horizon, the sea of clouds opened up slowly to reveal the figure of a person.

Chapter 220: The Opening Ceremony

In the distant horizon, the colorful clouds opened up to reveal the slender and composed figure of a young lady dressed in green.

She radiated a dignified aura as her elegant facial features revealed her identity. She was none other than the next-in-line of the Great Void Sect, Yan Mingyue.

Yan Mingyue, who was seemingly at the limits of the horizon, was right in front of everyone right after a single step. She gently tucked the loose strands of her hair behind her ear as she smiled at Lin Feng, "How's life, Master Lin?"

For those who recognized Yan Mingyue, there was only one thought that raced through their heads, "Isn't that the previous All-Under-Heavens Strider? Hasn't she been missing for many years? Why would she suddenly appear now?"

A lot of people had their eyes focused on the Two Elements of Creation Formation that was in the sky. Despite their line of sight being obstructed, everyone knew that Pang Jie, the successor to Yan Mingyue's All-Under-Heavens Strider title, was imprisoned within the formation.

Lin Feng looked at Yan Mingyue before his eyes swept across the masses before him. Amongst them, only Mei Wulang did not exhibit any tinge of surprise at the appearance of Yan Mingyue.

Because of this. It was apparent to Lin Feng that Yan Mingyue

had came along with Mei Wulang.

After the circulation of some thoughts in his head, Lin Feng smiled, "Congratulations to my dear Cultivator Yan for not only regaining a second life but also attaining a higher level of cultivation."

Yan Mingyue smiled gently and replied, "That was all thanks to your benevolence. I am deeply grateful for the assistance which you had rendered back then."

She flipped her palm to reveal a ruby red pearl which had been hidden between her hands.

The pearl itself was a transparent crystal which had a brilliant flame at its very core. From afar, the flame resembled the burning passion within the eyes of a living person.

This object outshone all the rest of the gifts which Mei Wulang had brought immediately right after its appearance. The only gift which could at best be on par with it was the Golden Crown of Angels and Demons.

But as Lin Feng released his powers to gain a better sensing of how powerful the pearl was, he immediately realized that its value was definitely above that of the Golden Crown of Angels and Demons.

He shifted his gaze upwards and asked Yan Mingyue, "Is this a

Magic Treasure embryo?"

Upon hearing his words, a complete silence engulfed the entire area.

The words, magic treasure, were just simply too precious.

One must not mistake the embarrassing performance of the Six Appearances Sword as the lack of power of a magic treasure. The only reason why it could not break free from the Two Elements of Creation Formation was because of the sheer strength of the formation. If it were any other formation, it would have stood no chance against the powerful Six Appearances Sword.

If one were to cast his vision across the entire world, other than the Two Elements of Creation Formation, the remaining formations which were able to contain the Six Appearances Sword could be counted with one's fingers.

Yan Mingyue nodded her head gently, "This treasure is called the Zhuyan Demon Eye. It is formed from the eyes of the Immemorial Celestial Dragon who had attained the level of the indestructible demon soul. It contains the fire-type abhijna and the mana of the Immemorial Celestial Dragon. I can be used as a magic treasure embryo to cultivate magic treasure."

Lin Feng smiled and accepted the Zhuyan Demon Eye with pleasure. Following which, he extended his hand before waving it, reducing the Two Elements of Creation Formation to a spot of light which returned to his hand.

Pang Jie and the Six Appearances Sword finally broke free from the formation. Seeing that Yan Mingyue was here, Pang Jie immediately understood what had just happened.

He went to Yan Mingyue with much solemnity before speaking faintly, "Congrats Senior Yan."

"Yan Mingyue, you..." The Six Appearances Sword's spirit was going to talk before it stopped itself after discovering something.

Yan Mingyue nodded her head, "Junior Pang, Revered Elder Six Appearances, it has been a long time since I last saw both of you."

Pang Jie asked, "Senior Yan, when do you plan to go back to Mount Baiyun?"

Yan Mingyue smiled, "After congratulating Master Lin, I do intend to return to take a look at how things are back at Mount Baiyun."

Pang Jie replied harmlessly, "That would be excellent. The lord and the elders all missed you dearly."

Lin Feng watched how they caught up over a little chat and was very much amused by it. Both of them wanted each other dead so badly yet they were trying so hard to keep up with the facade of peace and harmony.

If not for Chen Gang, Lin Feng would have been duped by their superb performance and not be aware of the internal strifes within the various factions of the Great Void Sect.

Pang Jie suddenly turned around to look at Lin Feng with a peculiar look on his face. It looked as though he was trying to comprehend something as he stared dead straight at Lin Feng.

Lin Feng returned the stare in a composed manner. After a good long moment, Pang Jie removed his gaze and without saying anything, he retreated to the back of Yan Mingyue, seemingly placing the ball in her court.

It seemed that his pride and ego did not allow him to bow down to Lin Feng, but in the current circumstances, he had no choice but to pass it on for now.

Seeing this, Lin Feng retracted his gaze as well and spoke plainly after a moment of silence, "You are always welcome to be my guest at Mount Yujing."

Pang Jie was shocked by his words but remained silent.

Yan Mingyue's eyes also revealed signs of being surprised by Lin Feng's words. She examined Pang Jie before a smile of enlightenment stretched across her face as she no longer spoke a single word.

It was only now when Lin Feng turned around and spoke to the

rest, "Despite the minor hiccups, the opening ceremony has gone on as planned and I sincerely thank everyone for gracing my ceremony. Now, I urge you all to follow me to tour my humble abode."

As he spoke, the sea of purple clouds rumbled and dissolved into Mount Yujing, revealing the true appearance of Mount Yujing.

Lin Feng led the way as he flew up to the top of Mount Yujing. Following him closely were his disciples, Xiao Yan, Xiao Budian and the rest.

Yan Mingyue smiled gently as she took a great leap into the air with Mei Wulang and his servants following closely behind.

Pang Jie remained still as he watched the rest ascended the mountain.

The others exchanged glances before buddying up to ascend the mountain. Some of them stole a glance at the lonely figure of Pang Jie first before leaving very quickly, afraid to reveal any sign of sympathy or contempt.

Even though Pang Jie had been humiliated by Lin Feng and outshone by Yan Mingyue, he was not someone that any of them could afford to offend.

Yang Tonghui kept the sword nascent soul of Kong Chang and spoke to both the Azure Clouds Grandmaster and the Flying

Flames Grandmaster, "Let's go."

Following which, he leapt onto his flying sword and led the disciples of the Heavenly Master Sword Sect up the mountain.

Both the Grandmasters let out a sigh after looking at each other before following Yang Tonghui.

They were both conflicted along with Yang Tonghui as they muttered to themselves, "Master Lin, Master Lin, you have really stumped us by handing Kong Chang to us."

Immediately after ascending Mount Yujing, everyone was shocked as they sensed the sheer amount of spiritual energy on the spiritual mountain. The presence of a mystical aura had caught all of them in a trance as they felt as though they had all been enlightened by the slightest bit just from breathing the air on Mount Yujing. All of them had already felt that the trip to Mount Yujing was not a wasted one.

Yan Mingyue's eyes glistened as she thought, "What a place... The only places which can be compared with Mount Yujing would be Mount Baiyun, the old Nirvana Land of the Great Thunderclap Temple and Mount Shu.

She smiled as a thought came into her head, "Longye, If only you knew how precious and valuable Mount Yujing was, I wonder how regretful you will be..."

Wu Yunliang and Meng Chaoran also revealed an expression of disbelief after landing on Mount Yujing. They looked at each other in disbelief and envy soon overcame the look of shock.

"Pang Jie and Kong Chang are both still alive. It seems like the Great Void Sect and the Mount Shu Sword Sect would not be going for a fight to the death with the Celestial Sect of Wonders," Wu Yunliang spoke gently.

Meng Chaoran nodded his head as he agreed with his senior, "Pang Jie and Kong Chang might be important members of their sects but at the end of the day, they are merely the second generation disciples anyway."

"The powers of the Great Void Sect and the Mount Shu Sword Sect are unquestionable but the Master of the Celestial Sect is not someone to belittle. With this spiritual mountain acting as his fortress, it would cost a lot to destroy him. Even the Great Void Sect and the Mount Shu Sword Sect would have to deliberate their decisions before making their move."

Wu Yunliang nodded and sighed, "If the opponent was any weaker, they could have erased him with much ease. But when the opponent carries some weight, even if victory were guaranteed, they would still have to consider the cost of a war. Any undue haste in making a move might result in a bargain for any third party."

"The Great Thunderclap Temple should serve as a reminder for all of them. If not for that incident, how would a spiritual land of Buddhism be destroyed so easily?"

Even though the Great Thunderclap Temple was destroyed, the only one who benefited from its disappearance was the Great Zhou Empire. The Great Void Sect and the Nine Heavenly Sword Alliance did not gain much out of it and instead lost quite a few powerful cultivators. No one wanted a repeat of such incidents.

Meng Chaoran continued, "There is no such thing as a never-ending vengeance when there is no interest involved. The Great Void Sect and the Mount Shu Sword Sect might be displeased but they would not send their entire sect to fight. At most, they would only send an Immortal Soul stage cultivator to find trouble at the Celestial Sect."

Wu Yunliang smiled disappointingly, "It seems that we are going to return empty-handed."

Meng Chaoran simply spoke softly, "We can only accept our fate. We have already done our best."

As the masses gathered at the peak of Mount Yujing, they could see twenty children who were around seven to eight years old standing in two neat rows, waiting for them earnestly.

The children were all dressed in a purple costume and were all fair-skinned and unbelievable adorable.

One would be able to sense the pure spiritual energy that they were radiating as they showed flair and talent which were unadulterated.

Seeing that Lin Feng and the rest had returned, the group of children moved forward in unison to welcome their master back with a bow before greeting in unison, "Welcome back, my lord."

Following which, they bowed in the direction of Yan Mingyue and the rest, "Welcome, dear guests of Mount Yujing. If we show any form of disrespect, do forgive us."

After roughly half a year of living on Mount Yujing, these children who were almost cultivated into pills had recovered and even digested some of the medicinal energy within their bodies.

Under the close supervision and tutelage of Zhu Yi and Kang Nanhua, all of them had a considerable grasp over their spiritual energy.

After sending their greetings to the guests, the children went on to greet Xiao Yan, Kang Nanhua, Miao Shihao and the rest.

"Welcome back, masters."

"Welcome back, Mr Kang and Mr Miao."

Upon seeing this, Yang Tonghui could not help but praise, "Lord Lin is indeed a good master. All his disciples are so outstanding."

"That is an overstatement," Lin Feng smiled in return.

The Flying Flames Grandmaster glanced around the peak of Mount Yujing and a smile played around his mouth but he remained quiet.

The only thing he feared now was to aggravate the already stale relationship with Lin Feng. Hence, he would not make any unnecessary comments.

Lin Feng saw his expression and of course he knew what the Flying Flames Grandmaster was thinking about. He was mocking at how empty the mountain was.

Time to witness a miracle.

Lin Feng controlled himself and made sure he did not splurt out the previous line which was in his head.

He smiled and spoke professionally, "I am deeply sorry if any of you were offended with the run-down state of my humble abode."

As he spoke, he raised his arm and a bright flash flew up into the sky.

Chapter 221: The Sect Master's Ceremony

"My sect's shabby grass-thatched cottages have certainly amused you lot."

As he said this, Lin Feng activated his hidden System Establishment Deed. In a flash, a ray of light shot up towards the sky.

This ray of light carved an arc across the sky, before bursting violently into a splendid cloud of effulgence, slowly falling towards the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree.

The resplendent blaze made everyone gasp in shock.

The cloud of light dissipated, gradually revealing its true identity - a magnificent, towering palace.

The light and shadows slowly fused into tangible entities, finally morphing into a physical mass, with the towering palace descending upon Mount Yujing.

The palace's main hall was thirty meters high, eighteen rooms wide, but no one knew how far it extended. The entire building glimmered with a faint purplish gold, with cornices mounted on all four corners and the Dragon, Phoenix, Turtle and Qilin resting on each one respectively. Six layers of platinum-glazed tiles shimmered brilliantly.

The palace walls were skirted with elegant, regal white jade fences, made of material similar to that of Mount Yujing, which rimmed the entire main hall.

The nine storeys of stairs were also constructed from the same material, which made the main hall's majestic infrastructure look like the stairways to heaven. The entire hall seemed incredibly lofty and imposing.

A seemingly virtual nebula floated above the apex of the main hall. It was as dazzling as a galaxy - mystical, vast, and endless.

The Sun, Moon, Venus, Jupiter, Mercury, Mars and Saturn.

Among the roving stars were these seven celestial bodies suspended over the galaxy, like masters of the heavens controlling everything beneath them.

And at the still, dark base of the main hall's nine storeys of stairs, was a wheel of light, gently spinning along.

The wheel of light was spinning with ceaseless and indifferent determination, an unbending will that could decide it all.

A will that would decide the fate of all living things for one, ten, hundred, thousand generations!

Like the ever-flowing river of history, the wheel of fate always spins forward. Nothing in existence can stop it, everything has

been determined! Fate cannot be stopped! Fate cannot be changed!

In the Netherworld, this ever-spinning wheel of light drives, regulates and records the tens of thousands of generations and the cycle of life and death for all living things in the universe.

The Seven Luminaries above are eternally unmoving, while the Netherworld below is always spinning.

There was a plaque placed above the entrance of the main hall, with the characters representing "Heavenly" calligraphed on it, emanating an imposing immortal aura that could move the earth and the heavens.

Everyone stared blankly at the Heavenly Palace standing before them. It wasn't just Yang Tonghui's visiting convoy who were astounded, even Lin Feng's own disciples, Kang Nanhua, and Miao Shihao, gazed at their sect's grand palace in awe.

After a good long while, Wu Yunliang finally recovered from the shock and laughed bitterly at Meng Chaoran. "Why do I feel that the Ethereal Mountain Sect's palace seems like a straw-house when compared to this palace?"

Meng Chaoran nodded unhesitatingly. "A house that would be blown down by just one gust of wind."

Yan Mingyue's eyes glimmered, and thought to himself, "Creating things from empty space? With such abhijna, his true

mastery levels must be higher than I thought."

Lin Feng scanned his audience. This spectacle was indeed presented to carve a deep impression in the minds of Yan Mingyue, Mei Wulang and Yang Tonghui, but it was also to instil pride and faith in the hearts of the young cultivators about to enter his sect.

Lin Feng silently thanked the Cyclone Master and Yu Wanfeng, who were both selfless and benevolent people.

The Battle of Huangyuan was for Lin Feng to highlight his strength, but Xiao Yan's current battle would totally be an exhibition to showcase the fruits of the Celestial Sect of Wonders' teachings.

They were unmatched by all others with the same mastery level, and their Aurous Core cultivators can even hold their own against Nascent Soul cultivators.

After this day, the name of the Celestial Sect of Wonders will definitely be renowned through the whole of the Grand Celestial World.

For the young talent about to enter the sect, this has paved them a long yet bright path to a blazing future.

But to protect them, Lin Feng has been using his own mana to shield them. Although Xiao Yan and the others were battling outside with all their might, the newcomers were still separated

from the battlefield by a barrier, hence they couldn't experience the full impact of the ongoing action.

Lin Feng then used the sect's deed in a manner similar to creating objects from empty space to engrave another deep mark in their minds, letting them know that their future would definitely be promising if they follow him.

The response was quite assuring. A band of youngsters were flabbergasted and speechless with sparkling eyes, regardless of whether they had already explored the world.

While the crowd was still reeling in shock, Lin Feng didn't stop his onslaught. With three consecutive flicks of his fingers, another three rays of light blazed through the skies and landed simultaneously on the empty patch behind the Celestial Grand Palace.

On the left stood a massive house shaped like an abode. At first glance, it seemed simple and bulky, but upon closer inspection, its intricate details gave forth a sense of imperial grandeur.

The abode was filled with the spiritual energy of greater intensity than that of Mount Yujing. This was because the abode contained a spell formation that continuously drew in and gathered the spiritual energy from Mount Yujing.

The Flying Flames Grandmaster stared at that Disciples' Abode in complete astonishment. Even though he didn't enter it, he could still feel the densely concentrated amounts of spiritual energy

inside just by standing outside with his Nascent Soul mastery.

"Residing and training here would definitely yield twice the results with just half the effort." The Flying Flames Grandmaster exclaimed. "Heck, if he raised a pig in that place, it might even transform into a demonic beast after a few years!"

Under Lin Feng's control, the other two structures landed on the other side of the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree, opposite the Disciples' Abode.

Two rustic and quaint buildings fell into place. One of them gave off a strong herbal aroma that could relax one's entire body, so potent that even cultivators suffering from many years of pain would enjoy slight relief.

This was the Elixir Chamber. Lin Feng opened the chamber doors wide. The Eight Trigrams were arranged on the floor in their specific positions at the heart of the room, and in the middle of the formation stood a single Elixir Cauldron.

The floor of the chamber was dotted with several futons, with a Wind and Fire Fan resting on each futon.

Numerous large gourds were hung on the walls. Preserving the elixirs in these gourds would prevent them from losing their medicinal capabilities, which may even strengthen after aging in the gourds.

Upon sensing the area, Lin Feng realized that, although the cauldron he prepared was of high quality, it still missed the mark by a bit. With a wave of his hand, the original cauldron vanished, and the Ethereal Heart Cauldron now sat in the centre of the chamber.

Yang Tonghui was puzzled. "Lord Lin, this cauldron is ..."

"This is the Ethereal Heart Cauldron." Lin Feng smiled, "I obtained this by chance. I think it's not bad."

Everyone who recognized the cauldron took a full gulp of air.

It isn't just 'not bad', it's jaw-droppingly formidable!

Yang Tonghui was thoroughly amazed. "I heard that this cauldron can only be effective using fires at least of the level of the Scarlet Thunderous Fire or the Acalanātha Inferno. It has endless uses, and can even rely on its core to strengthen the flames, allowing it to complete crafting elixirs at minimally thrice the speed of normal cauldrons.

"It's just that this cauldron had been missing for almost a thousand years, with its whereabouts perpetually unknown. I never thought it would be in Lord Lin's hands."

Lin Feng smiled. "It happened by chance."

He turned to look at Xiao Yan, then threw the Elixir Chamber's

deed at him. After construction is completed, a building's deed can only be used for allocating ownership.

"Xiao Yan, you're in charge of the Elixir Chamber. From today onwards, you'll be the master of this chamber."

Xiao Yan caught the deed, turned and glanced at the chamber and the Ethereal Heart Cauldron, then grinned joyfully. He bowed and said, "I shall abide by your orders, Master."

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster, who had been silent this whole time, laughed to himself bitterly. "This brat has the talent for crafting elixirs? Ugh, this is really agonizing!"

The building beside the Elixir Chamber was the Tripitaka Block. Lin Feng, however, did not open it for viewing, and simply introduced it briefly.

Everyone understood why, but couldn't help inspecting the exterior of the ten-meter-high three-storey building out of curiosity. "Who knows, perhaps this block holds the Mantra Scrolls of the Celestial Sect of Wonders?"

Lin Feng held onto the deed to the Tripitaka Block and looked at Wang Lin. "Wang Lin, train harder. The day you form your Aurous Core will be the day you inherit this block."

Wang Lin took a deep breath then bowed respectfully. "I won't let you down, Master!"

Lin Feng then turned to look at Zhu Yi. "Zhu Yi, from today onwards, I'm appointing you as the Chief Instructor of all the new disciples of this sect. All the new disciples will build their foundations under your wing before being trained by other instructors."

"Compassion, righteousness, fairness, and strictness - these are the qualities I require, and expect, from you as your master."

Zhu Yi straightened his robes, then grovelled to the ground and said, "I will abide by your teachings, Master."

When Xiao Budian noticed Lin Feng's gaze shifting towards him, he spat his tongue out and lowered his head before taking a peek. He immediately heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Lin Feng shaking his head smilingly before prying his vision away.

When Yang Wulang and Zhang Hai witnessed all this, they looked at each other without saying anything, with their gaze showing a tinge of distress.

Lin Feng then led everyone to the main hall.

The massive doors slammed open, and a soft pleasant sound drifted from within. The interior of the hall was shrouded with purple Qi which glowed with vigour.

Below the roof of the hall hung a galaxy, with countless stars that

formed numerous mystical and splendid constellations.

In a flash, Lin Feng was already seated cross-legged on the hall's main throne, being oddly laid back and not at all serious. But in the eyes of everyone else, he was brimming with regalness and authority.

Xiao Yan and the other disciples already knew the flow of events, and split into two groups and led the guests down the two sides of the hall.

Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao stood beside Lin Feng, and grinned as they observed Zhu Yi direct the horde of new disciples into the main hall and to Lin Feng's throne.

As expected, at the vanguard of the convoy of new disciples was a well-mannered young man in white and a lady with scarlet hair, dressed in red robes. They were Yang Qing and Yue Hongyan.

They were the first two who were completely overwhelmed and subdued by Lin Feng in the Battle of Huangyuan.

They were at the front of the army of disciples and led the rest in bowing before Lin Feng.

"We pay our respects to you, Grandmaster!"

Lin Feng looked at the horde of people below and felt a weird tingling sensation in his heart. A voice then resonated in his mind,

"This is my sect ..."

This was Lin Feng's own voice.

The System's prompter then sounded in his ears.

"Congratulations to Lord Lin for officially founding his own sect, and for recruiting thirty disciples with potential values exceeding 25, establishing the foundations for the sect's second stage!"

"Congratulations to Lord Lin for completing the Main Quest of the System 2.0!"

"We now present him with the Special Prize for completing the Main Quest of the System!"

Chapter 222: A Successful Conclusion

After the Sect Master's Ceremony, Lin Feng's Celestial Sect of Wonders was officially open and recruiting disciples, and the day came to an end.

In essence, under the outstanding leadership of Lin Feng's comrades, his four direct disciples each demonstrated their respective speciality spells, gradually fending off the incoming enemy onslaught, which ended in a merciless defeat for their foes.

With a total of 34 talented disciples with potential values exceeding 25 recruited, Lin Feng has successfully achieved the target he set.

Surely, this was a successful and momentous Sect-Opening Ceremony that all can learn from!

Actually, there were over 50 new disciples inducted. Besides those with potential values exceeding 25, there were around 25 others with potential values exceeding 20.

In this group, there were some with more passable personalities and stronger minds who were also taken in by Lin Feng.

As this was his first time establishing a sect, Lin Feng prioritized quality over quantity. Since his sect was still in its budding stages, taking in too many disciples at once would be impractical as there were not enough resources to go around, and he lacked ample manpower to train them.

Hence, many prospective disciples who displayed less talent were already rejected at Shazhou City. Although it was a cruel move, Lin Feng had to harden his heart and do what he deemed necessary.

Among the majority that were accepted, Lin Feng was most impressed by two individuals boasting potential values of around 30.

They were Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing. They were taken in by Lin Feng as his direct disciples, and they also gave Lin Feng two chances at the Lottery. Although those were technically given by the System, it can also be considered as Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing's Disciple Induction Ceremony.

Lin Feng's Disciple System also listed out their personal particulars.

"Name: Yue Hongyan

Age: 17 Years and 5 months

Current Mastery Level: Middle Level of the Foundation Establishment, Spiritual Altar Realm.

Potential Stats: Innate Ability -> 8; Intelligence -> 8; Determination -> 7; Fortune -> 7.

Recommended Training Method: Recommended to be trained in Fire-type spells. Recommended to take the Divine Martial Way of the Muscular Body as her main direction of development of Abhijina."

"Name: Yang Qing

Age: 17 Years and 1 month

Current Mastery Level: Middle Level of the Foundation Establishment, Spiritual Altar Realm.

Potential Stats: Innate Ability -> 9; Intelligence -> 9; Determination -> 5; Fortune -> 8.

Recommended Training Method: Recommended to be trained in Water-type spells. Recommended to use Spells as the main direction of development of Abhijna. Also talented in nurturing spiritual herbs and medicines, hence recommended to hone the skills in this area.

Note: Determination values are lower. Will tend to produce large inconsistencies during the training process. Requires close attention."

Lin Feng flipped through the pair's particulars and began to come up with various ideas for training them.

As for the guests who came to observe the ceremony, Kang Nanhua and the others were responsible for seeing them off, hence there was no need to trouble Lin Feng.

When the Sect-Opening Ceremony ended, everyone was still in high spirits. But once the guests took their leave, they became disconcerted and at a loss.

The cultivators from the northern foothills of Mount Kunlun were saddened by the monstrous overpowering forces that had suddenly risen in their own area.

The Flying Flames Grandmaster did come in high spirits but left feeling dejected. He was even secretly glad that Lin Feng did not stir any trouble with him.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster left feeling terribly bitter as if he had eaten a gold thread. Or, in his own words, he had his guts stuffed with gold thread which choked him all the way up his throat.

Yang Tonghui held onto Kong Chang's Nascent Sword, feeling very troubled like the other guests. The Heavenly Sword Sect's subsequent confrontations with Lin Feng would really be like walking on a tightrope.

But if they handle them well, the Heavenly Sword Sect stands to reap amazing benefits. Yang Tonghui felt his heart heating up just from thinking about that prospect and continued on his journey in pain yet feeling hopeful at the same time.

As for Wu Yunliang and Meng Chaoran, although they did get a chance to speak to Lin Feng privately, the reply they received was not a favourable one.

Lin Feng did not mind them sitting on the fence. The Ethereal Mountain Sect and the Celestial Sect of Wonders were not the same, with no previous connections. Since Lin Feng did not demonstrate enough mastery previously, it was definitely normal not to be noticed by them.

Lin Feng's thought process was always very straightforward: if

you didn't possess enough skill, why should neutral parties take your side? No one owes you anything.

And vice versa, I don't owe anyone else anything. You shouldn't expect to receive anything from me after coming empty-handed.

After sending off Wu Yunliang and Meng Chaoran, there was only one group of visitors left.

As he looked at Yan Mingyue who was standing in front of him, Lin Feng said softly, "Just one Zhuyan Demon Eye definitely wouldn't suffice."

If outsiders heard what Lin Feng said, they would probably be shocked. How would a Magic Treasure Embryo be inadequate for a Sect-Opening congratulatory gift?

Yan Mingyue, however, looked calm. She knew what Lin Feng was driving at, and simply nodded. "I understand."

The lady in green robes smiled, "There will be a follow-up, I promise."

Lin Feng stared at her momentarily then replied softly, "I hope I can accept your follow-up gift."

Yan Mingyue laughed. "But of course, or else I wouldn't be able to survive Lord Lin's wrath."

"Oh right, there's one more thing." Lin Feng suddenly thought of something. With a flick of his finger, a cloud of black smoke dropped to the ground and morphed into a tall, burly middle-aged man around six meters in height.

His skin colour was a weird purplish black, he had two thick and long strands of moustaches above his lips, and he had two bifurcated antlers growing on his head.

He was the Black Dragon Jieyu in its human form.

He emanated a strong domineering aura as if he was the Ruler of the Heavens. But in front of Lin Feng, Jieyu held back his aura and bowed respectfully to Lin Feng, "My Lord."

Jieyu then straightened back up, turned, and saw Yan Mingyue. He nodded to her. "It's been a long time, Lady Yan."

Yan Mingyue chuckled upon seeing Jieyu, "So you're following Lord Lin now."

Lin Feng waved his hand. "I summoned him to ask him whether he was interested in following you back to the Great Void Sect."

When Jieyu heard this, his face turned pale.

Yan Mingyue, on the other hand, cracked a smile and said

casually, "I think this dragon won't be willing to go back there."

"Oh?" Lin Feng was slightly puzzled and turned to look at Jieyu. In all honesty, although Jieyu was not being ill-treated by Lin Feng, he was not being treated exceptionally well either and received very little benefits.

Lin Feng used one-half of the Gengjin Tiger King's corpse to produce the Golden Tiger Avatar, while the other half was given to Tun Tun.

As for the Demon Soul Essence, a third of it was used to craft the Tiger Soul Golden Plate and given to Xiao Budian, another third was used for the Golden Tiger Avatar, and the final third was still with Lin Feng, with none for Jieyu.

Most importantly, dragons are rumoured to be very lecherous, but there are no female beasts here for him to hook up with.

Never mind Tun Tun, that temperamental brat would never fall for Jieyu. He should already consider himself fortunate if Tun Tun does not devour him as prey.

Why would Jieyu accept such treatment yet not wish to return to the Great Void Sect?

Lin Feng looked at Jieyu and said, "I kept you with me that day for various reasons, but if you wish to return to the Great Void Sect now, I wouldn't hold you back ..."

As he spoke, he saw Jieyu shaking his head violently like a Buleng Drum, "No, My Lord, I don't want to go back. I'm very happy here, please don't chase me away!"

Lin Feng was taken aback by Jieyu's reaction. If Yan Mingyue was not standing beside them, Jieyu would already be bawling out loud while hugging Lin Feng's legs.

Yan Mingyue tried to control her laughter, and explained, "Lord Lin, it's like this. Jieyu married a female Immemorial Celestial Dragon in the Great Void Sect's Dragon Pool ... Um, the female dragon has the powers of a Demonic Lord."

Upon hearing this, it dawned upon Lin Feng: all this drama was just because Jieyu was afraid of his wife?

Lin Feng was speechless, and when he mentally compared Jieyu to Tun Tun, he was so flustered that his heart pounded as if there were a hundred thousand alpacas galloping across. "For f*ck's sake, are demons all so pathetic? This is an embarrassment to all men ... no, all male demons!"

Since Jieyu was so unwilling to leave, Lin Feng couldn't force him either, and he just sent Yan Mingyue on her way.

Once the last guest left Mount Yujing, large blinding amounts of light suddenly burst forth from the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree on the summit, and the branches and leaves of its overarching canopy began to sway violently.

The light opened a hole in space, and the entire mountain lifted into the sky. The colossal holy mountain of white jade gradually disappeared into the gap in space.

The majestic holy mountain seemed to have vanished with no effort at all. It was as if it had never existed on the barren plains outside Shazhou City.

This seemingly miraculous sight would later become one of Shazhou City's most well-known legends.

Yan Mingyue stood on the clouds and watched Mount Yujing disappear into space. After a good long while, she just let out a soft sigh without saying anything.

Pang Jie, who was standing behind her, said, "The entire mountain has entered the turbulent flow of space, it's very hard to track its movements. We can't attack them even if we wanted to."

"If all the Great Void Sect's Immortal Soul warriors are activated at once to comb the entire flow of space, we might be able to hunt them down."

Yan Mingyue replied softly, "You know that's impossible."

"Yes, I know. He's not of demon descent." Pang Jie's tone was calm. "Not to mention, with others coveting from afar, if our Great Void Sect launches a full-fledged assault, we'll be leaving ourselves

open to those who wish to take advantage of the situation."

His gaze was unreservedly shifting between Yan Mingyue and Mei Wulang.

Mei Wulang smiled humbly without a word.

Yan Mingyue did not reply to Pang Jie's subtle chiding, and just smiled faintly. "If not for Lord Lin's reminders, I would have been tricked by you, Junior Pang."

"Since when were you able to conjure an avatar of the final level of the Nascent Soul stage? If I'm not wrong, your true self hasn't advanced to the Immortal Soul Realm yet."

Pang Jie replied calmly. "Everyone has their lucky breakthroughs. Isn't it the case for you too, Senior Yan?"

"I must thank the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders for this." He gazed in the direction that Mount Yujing disappeared to. "I must return to Mount Baiyun now. If I manage to reap any rewards this time, Lord Lin will take half the credit, and you, Senior, will take the other half."

"Thank you both for teaching me this lesson together."

With that, Pang Jie's avatar vanished into space.

Mei Wulang finally spoke. "Lady Yan, your junior is no simple person. If this wasn't an avatar, I would have cracked my brains to make him stay here."

Yan Mingyue smiled and looked towards the distant space at the horizon. "If he's not that simple, then the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders would be even harder to handle."

"I don't even know what he's doing now either."

At that moment, Lin Feng, whom Yan Mingyue was complaining about, was trying to decipher the new Quest given by the System.

Lin Feng raised his eyebrows. "It seems easy, but judging by the System's tendency to give misleading hints, why do I feel like something's just not right?"

Chapter 223: The Newest Main Quest

Lin Feng stroked his chin as he pondered over the newest Main Quest of the System. He thought to himself, "It seems easy, but judging by the System's tendency to give misleading hints, why do I feel like something's just not right?"

Main Quest 2.1 -- Spread your name, expand your influence.

Quest Description: Congratulations to the Host for successfully opening the sect and officially beginning the journey to build it up.

But when compared to the entire world out there, the sect is still a tiny fledgling. The Host still has a long way to go before the sect can be established as a renowned and respectable organisation.

From today onwards, the Host would have to improve the sect's basic infrastructural facilities and extend the sect's influence throughout the entire Grand Celestial World to achieve a Worldwide Popularity score of 80 and above.

Time Limit: 10 years. If the Quest is not completed within the given time limit, the Host will be killed immediately.

"Worldwide Popularity?" Lin Feng blinked and took out his Popularity System. After examining it for a short while, he started to frown.

He first looked at his previous territory at the Northern Foothills

of Mount Kunlun.

Half a year ago, after the Spiritual Conference of Hanhai at Shazhou City, Lin Feng's popularity score at the Northern Foothills of Mount Kunlun was already 85 points.

But even after all the commotion of opening a sect, Lin Feng's popularity in the region only increased by a mere 5 points to reach a total of 90.

This was not even close to the speed at which the sect's popularity was skyrocketing at previously

Lin Feng mulled over it for a moment. "Soaring to greater heights after achieving success is always harder than starting something from scratch. It looks like the higher your popularity is, the harder it is for it to grow."

Lin Feng's popularity as an individual was separated from the sect's popularity as a whole and compared to his current individual score of 90, the sect's popularity in the Northern Foothills of Mount Kunlun was much lower at 75.

Lin Feng then recalled that his sect's popularity during the Spiritual Conference of Hanhai was only a meagre 50 points.

Such a drastic increase could definitely be attributed to the recent battle on the barren plains outside Shazhou City, where Xiao Yan and his comrades fended off an opponent in the Nascent

Soul stage.

"My personal popularity can raise the sect's overall popularity, since I'm its Sect Master and Grandmaster after all, while my disciples' achievements can also contribute to the overall score."

Lin Feng then realized, after examining the scores for the areas beyond the Northern Foothills of Mount Kunlun, that both his individual popularity and the sect's popularity were considerably lower everywhere else.

Some areas did show more optimistic scores, probably thanks to the battle before the Sect-Opening Ceremony.

When Yang Tonghui and the others who attended the Sect-Opening Ceremony returned to their respective sects, they spread the word of the battle in their home regions, which helped Lin Feng and his sect gain a stronger reputation.

But in spite of this, Lin Feng's personal popularity and the sect's overall popularity were still low when looking at the entire Grand Celestial World, and there was still a considerable gap to close to achieve the Main Quest's requirement of 80 points.

Lin Feng sighed, "There's still a long way to go!"

What would be beneficial for increasing one's popularity?

He could attempt to accomplish a grand feat that no one has ever

achieved before and amazed the world.

Or, he could rely on someone else's repute. One always sees further when standing on the shoulders of giants.

Lin Feng carefully pondered for a bit before exiting the Popularity System and went on to check the newest special reward given by the System for completing the Sect-Opening Ceremony.

It was an umbrella, a big black umbrella.

As he held the handle, Lin Feng felt the canopy of the umbrella between his fingers and thought, "This may be useful, but if the user isn't careful, this may become counter-productive. Using it requires the utmost attention to detail."

Then, an idea flashed in his mind, and Lin Feng slowly cracked a smile as warm and bright as the springtime Sun.

With a wave of his hand, two balls of fire dropped to the ground and morphed into two human figures.

Both had similar appearances, each with a skinny and feeble body, a pointy mouth with the jaw frills of a monkey, a purplish black face with blushed cheeks, a pair of small ears pointed upwards, and a bald head without a single strand of hair.

One looked like a teenager while the other looked like a middle-aged man.

They were the Fire Crow Young Master and the Fire Crow Demonic Commander whom Lin Feng captured alive previously when he first arrived in the Kunlun mountains to search for Mount Yujing.

Both bird demons have morphed into their human forms. As they faced Lin Feng, they just stood there obediently, having lost all their bad temper, and not even daring to breathe too loudly.

Lin Feng looked at them and said, "Since you had offended me previously, I imprisoned you for a period of time as punishment."

The Fire Crow Demonic Commander nodded vigorously, "I was rude then. I had offended you, Senior. Please forgive me."

He hesitated for a bit, glanced at the Fire Crow Young Master, then said, "Our clan's young master is still young and immature, please be understanding. The Master of our clan only has this one child and is now separated from his only flesh and blood, I beg you to show some pity and mercy."

The Fire Crow Young Master's antlers haven't been polished, but he knew clearly that even his father, the Fire Crow King, was an insignificant small fry in Lin Feng's eyes. He didn't dare to fight back and just bowed submissively before Lin Feng, "I was immature then. Senior, please show some mercy and spare me this time round."

Lin Feng grinned, "Looks like you've learnt from your mistakes. I

don't enjoy killing others, so I'll let you off this time, but I need you to convey a message for me."

The Fire Crow Young Master and the Fire Crow Demonic Commander were elated to hear this, and the young master quickly asked, "Does Senior Lin have things that you wish to discuss with my father?"

"I have nothing to say to him." Lin Feng glanced at the Fire Crow Young Master, "I want you to bring a message to the Golden Crow Grand Sage."

"The Grandmaster?" The Fire Crow Young Master and the Fire Crow Demonic Commander were both stunned, but as they looked at each other, neither dared to probe the matter further and both lowered their heads. "Please tell us the message, we'll definitely convey it for you."

Lin Feng lifted his finger, and a cloud of purple Qi dropped down in front of the two demons. He said, "Take this with you and give it to the Golden Crow Grand Sage."

The Fire Crow Young Master kept the purple cloud diligently and departed Mount Yujing with the Fire Crow Demonic Commander into space.

Lin Feng gazed across the space and watched as the duo faded into two black specks before eventually vanishing over the horizon. He smiled, "Don't disappoint me."

...

Tianjing City, Capital of the Great Zhou Empire.

At the central meridian of Tianjing City, stood a towering palace facing south. It was the Imperial Palace of the Great Zhou Empire, the heart of the entire nation.

Inside the palace, all the walls and rooms were lined with layers upon layers of lacquered yellow tiles, which not only made the entire palace look incredibly luxurious, but also incomparably majestic, like a celestial palace that descended from the heavens to the mortal world.

In the middle of the palace, stood the magnificent main hall constructed purely from white jade. The main hall shimmered with a scarlet glow that looked like it could fend off all evil.

In the east wing of the main hall, in a warm, quaint room, a middle-aged man sat upright on a grand chair.

Anyone who saw the man would gain the wrong impression that he was holding up the room - that instead of the big white pillars at the side of the room that two people could wrap their arms around, it was the man sitting in front of them who was holding up the ceiling.

This man not only held up the room, but also the entire main hall, even the skies, the earth, and the heavens.

He wore gorgeous clothes and a purplish golden crown, he had partially white temples, and his hands were as white and spotless as jade, which made him seem like he yielded unlimited power.

He was the pillar of the Great Zhou Empire, the Marquis of Xuanji, Zhu Hongwu.

The large table in front of him was laid with the various memorials presented by the respective state governments of the Great Zhou Empire. He needed to arrange them and add his own inputs before presenting them to the Zhou Emperor Liang Pan. This was his responsibility as the Grand Advisor of the Great Zhou Empire.

After he placed another memorial down, Zhu Hongwu lifted his head up and stared at the door, with his dilated pupils as black as the cosmic galaxies. "Come in."

An old eunuch entered the room. He seemed meek and subservient, and said very gently, "His Majesty summons the Grand Advisor to the main hall to discuss some matters."

Although he was very servile in front of Zhu Hongwu, the mana emanating from his body was incredibly terrifying. After all, he was a great cultivator in the middle level of the Nascent Soul stage, and a grand eunuch only second to Mei Wulang in the palace hierarchy.

But in front of Zhu Hongwu, he was as obsequious as a lowly

slave.

Zhu Hongwu nodded, "I understand." He put the memorial down and stood up.

As Zhu Hongwu rose from his seat, the old eunuch momentarily felt as if the skies and earth all trembled in that instant.

Under the escort of the old eunuch, Zhu Hongwu left his chamber in the side hall and arrived at the main hall, following gingerly behind the eunuch as he slowly stepped inside.

Inside the main hall, a middle-aged man wearing a Nine Dragons Golden Crown and dressed in gorgeous imperial robes sat upright on the Dragon Throne.

At first glance, the Dragon Throne looked as if it was above the main hall facing south, but upon a closer look, one would realize that the throne was isolated from the rest of the main hall, residing a separate space-time.

The man sitting on the throne had a face that resembled white jade, with faint traces of old age yet not showing any signs of weakness. Instead, these traces made him look even more dignified, with an aura that could control everything under the heavens. He was the Zhou Emperor, Liang Pan.

Beneath Liang Pan, Mei Wulang stood there decorously, while Yan Mingyue sat quietly on a round stool, merely acknowledging

Zhu Hongwu's arrival with a simple nod.

As he saw Zhu Hongwu enter the hall, Liang Pan grinned joyfully, "Please be seated."

Upon his orders, a little eunuch brought a wooden stool over. Zhu Hongwu thanked him and sat down.

"Hongwu, the son you bore with Lady Meng, Zhu Yi, has really surprised me." Liang Pan seemed very jovial, addressing Zhu Hongwu by his given name, and conversing as if they were close friends, which showed the intimate relationship between the Emperor and his advisor.

Zhu Hongwu replied calmly, "I wouldn't dare to accept Your Majesty's compliments."

"This definitely isn't undeserved praise." Liang Pan waved his hand. "Lady Yan and Wulang have already explained the situation to me in detail, and indeed, as Lady Yan had mentioned previously, your son's master is certainly no ordinary person."

"Wulang, explain the situation to Hongwu."

Zhu Hongwu turned to Mei Wulang and Yan Mingyue, "Looks like Zhang Hai returned empty-handed."

Mei Wulang replied respectfully, "The Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders is even stronger than we imagined." He then recounted

everything that he had witnessed for Zhu Hongwu.

Zhu Hongwu nodded and said composedly, "Based on what you said, the Celestial Sect of Wonders bears greater strength than the Aeolus Sect and the Sword of Radiance Sect. They certainly wouldn't be easy to eradicate."

"But, although they boast outstanding advantages, they also bear fatal flaws."

Chapter 224: The Dilemma Of The Sword Of Radiance Sect

Zhu Hongwu said composedly, "The Celestial Sect of Wonders boasts outstanding advantages, but also bears fatal flaws."

Yan Mingyue and Liang Pan looked at each other. Liang Pan's interest was piqued, and asked, "Oh? Please share what you have learnt."

"It would be an honour, Your Majesty." Zhu Hongwu stood up and bowed, and carried on to share, "The Celestial Sect of Wonders' strongest point isn't that its mantras and abhijna are strong, though the mastery levels of its disciples far exceed those of their peers. Neither is it due to the sect's master Lin Feng's impressive abhijina."

"The sect's mantras and abhijina may be powerful, and its disciples may have been able to rely on Aurous Core levels of mastery to fend off a cultivator in the Nascent Soul stage, but this is not an unprecedented feat. As far as I know, there have been a couple of talented new individuals who have accomplished this before."

"Not to mention, a key reason as to why the disciples could challenge a Nascent Soul cultivator was that their sect master Lin Feng handed them Nascent Soul weapons, which greatly increased their combat capabilities."

"The sect's mantras and abhijina cannot be underestimated, but

there's no need to overestimate their powers either."

Zhu Hongwu's gaze was resolute and his tone was calm. "As for the sect's leader Lin Feng, being able to crush the heavens and earth, and conjure matter from virtual space, are certainly impressive feats that even some cultivators in the initial Immortal Soul stages cannot replicate. However, many Immortal Soul cultivators with advanced mastery levels also possess these powers."

"Pardon my rudeness, but even Your Majesty can achieve them."

Liang Pan nodded and chuckled, "Hongwu, you forgot to mention yourself."

Zhu Hongwu replied, "I wouldn't dare to be placed on the same level as Your Majesty."

Liang Pan then said, "But the things that the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders has demonstrated so far may not be his entire arsenal."

"Your Majesty is indeed perceptive. I concur with that thought." Zhu Hongwu continued, "This is why I have recognized this sect's strength. The sect master is very mysterious, it's extremely difficult to gauge his true mastery levels."

"But as I mentioned previously, while these may be the Celestial Sect of Wonders' outstanding areas, they are not the sect's greatest

weapons. Their sect's true ace is their sect's mountain, the legendary Mount Yujing!"

Zhu Hongwu's unwavering gaze finally showed some movements. "That mountain is truly mystifying. The sect's entire residence can enter the turbulent flow of virtual space, making it nearly impossible to track them down. This is the Celestial Sect of Wonders' most formidable weapon, one that is the hardest to counter."

Regardless whether it's Mount Shu of the Mount Shu Sword Sect, or Mount Baiyun of the Great Void Sect, or even Tianjing City of the Great Zhou Empire, all these places are stationary and unmovable.

It doesn't matter whether these places are penetrable - as long as people wish to attack them, they can be attacked.

Only Mount Yujing can be concealed in virtual space. Even those with incredible amounts of tolerance cannot track down Lin Feng's sect no matter how much they wish to ram down his front door.

The other three present nodded in agreement.

Due to the overbearing powers of Mount Yujing and the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree, even if it emerges from space and lands on a physical area, penetrating it would be even harder than ascending to the heavens.

Once Lin Feng decides to move Mount Yujing, hardly anyone can stop him. Who knows how many great cultivators would be sacrificed just to attack Mount Yujing.

But once Mount Yujing disappears, it's almost impossible to locate it again. When it surfaces next is entirely dependent on Lin Feng's mood.

Yan Mingyue said calmly, "In order to defeat the Celestial Sect of Wonders, its leader has to personally ride Mount Yujing to launch an attack on either Mount Baiyun, Mount Shu, or Tianjing City in a battle to the death. Only then would there be a slim chance of annihilating them."

"But the price to pay would be unimaginable."

Zhu Hongwu grabbed his fists and said faintly, "This wouldn't be easy if he had no desire to attack. But judging by his actions, he's definitely not a dull and unmotivated person. If he wants something, he would crack his brains to obtain it."

"This implicates the sect's greatest weakness. Although they are stellar, they can falter due to an unstable foundation. Besides the sect master himself, there are no other Immortal Soul cultivators in the sect. Once the sect master falls, the Celestial Sect of Wonders would be doomed."

As he spoke, Zhu Hongwu closed his eyes. "As strong as he is, there's only one of him. There are only two Nascent Soul stage cultivators and three Aurous Core cultivators among the

remaining members of the sect. Although their combat skills are formidable, even the sect master must surrender if cornered by three to five Immortal Soul cultivators."

"The only thing we need to think about is how to prevent him from escaping using the holy mountain."

Liang Pan gently tapped the armrest of his throne as he deliberated for a while, then said, "Our initial strategy hasn't changed. We'll maintain friendly relations with distant states and attack those near us. We'll befriend the Celestial Sect of Wonders and attack the Mount Shu Sword Sect and Great Qin Empire."

"In this plan, the strength of the Celestial Sect of Wonders would be of great use to us."

Zhu Hongwu and Mei Wulang replied simultaneously, "We shall follow Your Majesty's orders."

Mei Wulang hesitated for a moment and said, "I think the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders may have other plans. He spared the Lixiong Master of Mount Shu, Kong Chang, and sent him to the Heavenly Sword Sect. It seems like he has other things in mind."

Liang Pan smiled, "He definitely wouldn't willingly become cannon fodder for us, but sending Kong Chang's Nascent Sword to the Heavenly Sword Sect is indeed an interesting move. It seems like he wants to dissolve the Nine Heavenly Sword Alliance from the inside, and I support that."

"Whether he becomes cannon fodder, isn't up to him." Zhu Hongwu said softly, "It depends on whose tactics are more superior."

Yan Mingyue looked at Liang Pan and Zhu Hongwu and cracked a faint smile as thoughts rushed through her mind. "Zhu Hongwu, your tactics may not even be as witty as Lin Feng's. Lin Feng, what exactly can you do this time?"

...

The Xingyun Peak, the main peak of the Yunhuan mountain range at the south-eastern region of the Great Qin Empire, is the sect residence of the Sword of Radiance Sect, a member of the Nine Heavenly Sword Alliance.

On Xingyun Peak, a woman in white sat cross-legged in one of the caves. Her facial features were beautiful, and green jade earrings hung from her delicate earlobes, gently swaying, and producing a crisp clank of jade.

A dainty ray of sword radiance swerved around her incessantly, before slowing down and landing on the scabbard on her back.

"Well done, Yanran, you are gradually grasping the essence of this sword technique." A beautiful middle-aged woman appeared before the woman in white and smiled, "You didn't waste any time training in the holy abode where time flows faster."

The woman in white was Murong Yanran. Her childishness had faded, and her face was bright and refined.

When she saw the beautiful middle-aged woman, Murong Yanran grinned and exclaimed, "Master!"

The middle-aged woman was the Tong Ling Priestess, an outstanding Aurous Core cultivator from the Sword of Radiance Sect. She smiled to herself as she glanced at Murong Yanran, "Yanran's talent is truly exceptional. Within such a short time, she has already reached the middle level of the Foundation Establishment stage. She shouldn't have any problems battling Xiao Yan."

With that thought in mind, the Tong Ling Priestess let out a smile and advised Murong Yanran on some areas of improvements for her mantras before returning to her own chamber.

Before she even sat down, the Tong Ling Priestess received a message from her master, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster. "Is Master already back from his expedition to investigate the Celestial Sect of Wonders?"

"Although the Celestial Sect of Wonders has caused quite a stir at the Northern Foothills of Mount Kunlun, it shouldn't be able to hold a candle to the Sword of Radiance Sect's thousands of years of experience. Mount Kunlun, Mount Kunlun, let's see if they can handle an assault from the Aeolus Sect first."

As she pondered over this, the Tong Ling Priestess arrived at the

Azure Clouds Grandmaster's quarters. When she saw the Grandmaster, she immediately bowed and greeted him, "Good morning, Master."

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster, who had been back-facing her, then turned around. The Tong Ling Priestess was thoroughly shocked when she saw his expression.

She has never seen her master look so troubled before.

"Master ..." The Tong Ling Priestess was at a loss.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster sighed and asked, "How are the mastery levels of that brat Yanran?"

When he mentioned Murong Yanran, the Tong Ling Priestess became revitalized, and beamed, "After secluded training in the Holy Abode, Yanran has successfully formed her spiritual altar and reached the middle level of the Foundation Establishment stage."

"Moreover, she erected a Class Two spiritual altar!"

The Tong Ling Priestess has enough reason to be proud. Adding the time spent training in the Holy Abode where time flows faster, Murong Yanran wouldn't even be 20 years old. She hasn't been in the sect for ten years and she has already erected her spiritual altar, making her one of the best among the Sword of Radiance Sect's young disciples in this generation.

Especially since she erected a Class Two spiritual altar, it would mean that she had a decent chance of forming a Purple Pill in the future. This would be considered as an extremely outstanding achievement for the Sword of Radiance Sect.

The Tong Ling Priestess thought that the Azure Clouds Grandmaster would be elated as well, but when he heard the news, he frowned even more and laughed bitterly. "The middle level of the Foundation Establishment stage, huh, the middle level of the Foundation Establishment stage ... The three-year pact is almost up, what should we do?"

The Tong Ling Priestess sensed forbidding. "The three-year pact ... Master, has Xiao Yan improved drastically? What did he do at the Celestial Sect of Wonders ..."

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster's face was as crumpled as a Chinese bun. He smiled wryly as he nodded and sighed repeatedly, without any energy to speak.

The Tong Ling Priestess took a deep breath. "What's his current mastery level, the final level of the Foundation Establishment stage? In that case, there's still a chance of winning if I confer an Aurous Core stage weapon to Yanran ..."

Before she could even finish her sentence, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster shot his hand up to interrupt her. "Xiao Yan has already formed an Aurous Core, and judging by his mana pulses, it's no doubt a Purple Pill."

The Tong Ling Priestess was completely taken aback, so shocked that her mouth was wide open with no regard for her image. "How is that possible?! Even with Yanran's aptitude and her continuous training in the Sword of Radiance Sect, she's only at the middle level of the Foundation Establishment stage. How can that brat already have formed an Aurous Core?"

"Moreover, that brat is so young. Was he training in an abode where time flowed a thousand or ten thousand times faster for these three years? Does such an abode even exist?"

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster shot her a frustrated glare and said, "Not just that, the mantras and abhijina he mastered are incredibly formidable, and can even control both the Grand Sun Primordial Flame and the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Flame. His combat skills can crush nearly all the Aurous Core cultivators in existence."

He stared at the Tong Ling Priestess and said sombrely, "Naturally, that includes you too."

The Tong Ling Priestess gawked at her master in astonishment. The Azure Clouds Grandmaster forced out a bitter laugh. He still had his pride as a Nascent Soul Grandmaster, there were some things he just couldn't say.

After witnessing the battle between Xiao Yan and Master Cyclone, even the Azure Clouds Grandmaster himself was not confident of defeating Xiao Yan. Even if he did win, it would be a very close victory with severe damages on both sides.

Otherwise, why would he be wallowing in anxiety like this?

If a disciple challenges someone to a battle, but her master isn't even her opponent's match, heck, even her Grandmaster isn't confident of defeating the opponent, what's the point of such a stupid challenge?

The Tong Ling Priestess felt sick and dizzy and only came back to her senses after a good long while. She inhaled deeply, "Yanran's bet with that brat was that she would become his slave if she lost. The Sword of Radiance Sect cannot afford to be humiliated like this!"

"We must find a way to prevent this from happening!"

Chapter 225: The Mysterious Elixir Chamber

The Tong Ling Priestess chanted repeatedly, "Must find a way to prevent this from happening, must find a way to prevent this from happening ... must find a way to prevent this from happening!"

She suddenly lifted her head. "Master, if there's no other way, we'll make more preparations before bargaining with the brat when he arrives. If he gives up the bet voluntarily, we won't treat him shabbily, and we'll give him some compensation."

As she said this, her eyes flickered menacingly. "If he doesn't, we'll simply detain him on Xingyun Peak!"

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster let out a long sigh, "This won't work either."

The Tong Ling Priestess lost her cool. "Master!"

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster shook his head and replied, "I'm not saying that your method is wrong, but your method is not feasible at all."

The Tong Ling Priestess asked perplexedly, "Why?"

After the Azure Clouds Grandmaster briefly recounted the events of the battle on the barren plains outside Shazhou City, the Tong

Ling Priestess was flabbergasted. She then forced a wry smile that looked more painful than a crying face. "Just what kind of people are there in the Celestial Sect of Wonders?"

"If that's the case, not only is Yanran's bet a gone case, the Sword of Radiance Sect would be the laughing stock of the entire world!"

If Murong Yanran was any other normal disciple, this wouldn't be too serious, and this issue can be settled discreetly.

But in the last three years, Murong Yanran followed the Tong Ling Priestess everywhere in her travels, and was known across the entire Nine Heavenly Sword Alliance and the Great Qin Empire as the disciple with the strongest potential and the most famous reputation among all her peers in the Sword of Radiance Sect, and as the sect's most promising talent to nurture.

If such a disciple loses to someone else and becomes his slave, the Sword of Radiance Sect would be utterly ashamed.

Furthermore, Murong Yanran despised Xiao Yan previously as unwanted trash, and riotously rejected his marriage proposal, and now, that unwanted piece of garbage now has evolved into an outstanding prodigy and would soon pulverize her. If this was made known to the outside world, it wouldn't just be a slap to Murong Yanran's face, but a clean, hard smack to the entire Sword of Radiance Sect's face.

If Xiao Yan just relied on his own abilities without any backing, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster definitely wouldn't reject the Tong

Long Priestess' suggestion. This idea had even surfaced in that old duff's mind multiple times before.

But just thinking about Lin Feng's various counterattacks sent chills down his spine.

But if he allows Xiao Yan to charge in and have Murong Yanran lose her bet and become Xiao Yan's slave, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster wouldn't be able to accept it even more.

He chanted to himself, "Think of a way, must think of a way."

After a good long while, his eyes suddenly glistened with hope.

"Perhaps this idea can work." The Azure Clouds Grandmaster stopped pondering, and his wrinkled face finally relaxed. He was no longer frowning and was beaming like a chrysanthemum

The Tong Ling Priestess looked at the old man, puzzled. "Master, what idea have you come up with?"

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster glanced at her and thought to himself, "I still need the Tong Ling Priestess to explain it clearly to Murong Yanran as her master." He then briefly explained his plan.

After the Tong Ling Priestess heard his plan, she was stunned, and replied hesitantly, "Master, I'm afraid this may ..."

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster said calmly, "There's nothing to be afraid of. You just need to follow my orders."

After the Tong Ling Priestess took her leave, he sighed, "Let's hope this succeeds."

"Xiao Yan, sigh, why did you just have to take Lin Feng as your master?"

...

Lin Feng , who was making so many people very anxious, was staring at his own System blankly.

After Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing entered the sect, Lin Feng obtained two more chances at the Lottery, which he naturally wanted to claim.

But he couldn't enter the Lottery System, which just displayed a line of words. "System upgrading in progress, please access it after upgrading is completed!"

Lin Feng scratched his head and examined the System again. It was indeed undergoing upgrading and access was denied.

The previous time there was a System upgrade was when he had just reached the Foundation Establishment stage.

"There wasn't a System upgrade when I formed the Aurous Core either." Lin Feng thought about it carefully, "Looks like the System upgrades are not purely tied to my own mastery level, but also my enlightenment of the 'Heavenly Classic of the Way's Virtues'."

The first System upgrade was after he discovered the 'Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams', the first chapter of the 'Heavenly Classic of the Way's Virtues', the same time he successfully reached the Foundation Establishment stage.

And the second System upgrade was when he created the 'Four Appearances Heaven Cleaving Script', the second chapter of the 'Heavenly Classic of the Way's Virtues', which coincided with his successful Soul Formation.

Lin Feng then realized, "The advancement in my mastery levels, and the advancement in my self-created mantras, are both conditions that must be met."

Previously when he had just created the 'Four Directions Heaven Cleaving Script' and there was no System upgrade, it was because he had not successfully advanced to the Nascent Soul stage.

Lin Feng sighed: whatever, I can only wait until the upgrading is completed before I can use my Lottery tickets. Hopefully, the upgrading churns out some precious prizes.

Temporarily unable to use the Lottery, Lin Feng loitered around the mountain alone.

As he wandered around, Lin Feng reached the entrance of the Elixir Chamber. He lifted his head and gazed at the plaque carved with the words 'Celestial Golden Pavilion', and thought to himself, "As the Heavenly Temple of the main hall, its most salient feature is actually its formidable defence."

"The Disciples' Abode can draw in the surrounding spiritual energy to keep the people inside warm. These buildings created from sect-construction deeds seem to each have some unique features, so what's so special about the Elixir Chamber?"

As he pondered, Lin Feng entered the Celestial Golden Pavilion Elixir Chamber and saw Xiao Yan circling the Ethereal Heart Cauldron with a face full of soot.

A fire burned within the cauldron, producing a strong herbal aroma.

When Xiao Yan noticed Lin Feng, he let out a bright smile, revealing his sparkling white teeth, which looked even better juxtaposed against his dirty black cheeks.

Lin Feng chuckled, "Why didn't you clean yourself up?"

With Xiao Yan's current mastery level, he could be completely free of dust at all times if he wanted to, and never come close to looking like an African.

"I couldn't bother, Master." Xiao Yan's eyes were glued to the

cauldron as he answered, "Master's Elixir Chamber is really amazing. I experimented a little with the Eight Trigrams Formation on the ground by adding the effects of the Wind and Fire Fan, and the success rate of crafting elixirs increased by at least 3%."

Lin Feng was slightly surprised to hear this. A treasure like the Ethereal Heart Cauldron only increased the success rate by 3%.

Now with the Celestial Golden Pavilion's power, the success rate may shoot up by 60%.

This is a terrifying figure.

Strictly speaking, the success rate of crafting elixirs mentioned here, actually refers to the rate of efficient utilization of the medicinal ingredients.

When normal cultivators craft elixirs, the heat intensity, ratios of ingredients, duration, and various other factors result in poor efficiency of herb usage. On average, most cultivators only achieve around 30% of successful herb utilization, and the remaining amount is wasted as dregs.

This would already be considered as a crafting success. By definition, a crafting failure means to ruin the entire cauldron of ingredients and to waste all the time and effort put in to craft the elixir.

Cultivators with outstanding crafting skills achieve an efficiency rate of around 40 to 50%.

Xiao Yan could already achieve this percentage, and he had no formal training, relying purely on trial and error.

With that in mind, Lin Feng felt a tinge of regret. "It's a pity I didn't capture the Baicao Grandmaster alive previously, then I could have obtained his elixir crafting skills and have had something to teach Xiao Yan. Now I cannot fully harness his potential, what a waste."

The Baicao Grandmaster's thousands of years of training all revolve around spiritual herbs and elixirs. When he crafts elixirs, the rate of efficient herb usage is minimally above 70%, and higher quality cauldrons may even achieve a yield of over 90%.

If he uses the Ethereal Heart Cauldron, he would surely achieve a yield of 100%, with not a single ounce of ingredients wasted.

And now, if Xiao Yan combines his crafting talent with the boosts from the Ethereal Heart Cauldron and the Celestial Golden Pavilion, he can achieve a yield of 100% too.

There may be some hiccups, but it would be nearly perfect.

Xiao Yan was very excited too. Even though he had evidently been cooped in the Elixir Chamber for a very long time, with his bloodshot eyes, tired demeanour, and his mana almost exhausted,

he was still particularly fired up.

With a sweep of his mana, he discovered that several large gourds hanging from the walls already contained elixirs. They were Thunderous Echo Elixirs and Barrier-breaking Elixirs.

After Lin Feng obtained the crafting recipes for these two elixirs, he immediately gave them to Xiao Yan.

Seeing how excited Xiao Yan was, Lin Feng thought to himself, "Looks like I need to find more recipes. Hmm, it would be best to obtain an elixir from the System that's never been created before, like the Trāyastriṃśa Elixir of Creation."

Since he already established his Celestial Sect of Wonders, only crafting elixirs from the monk temple wouldn't be quite right.

"Xiao Yan, you'll have to inquire and investigate more yourself and develop our own new product as soon as possible. Engaging in more technological development and innovation would be essential to our core competitiveness."

Lin Feng looked up at the ceiling, and he was stunned.

Besides the gold Eight Trigrams pattern on the floor, the Celestial Golden Pavilion had another silver Eight Trigrams pattern on the ceiling.

After staring at the silver pattern for a good long while, he

gradually worked through a few ideas and formed a guess in his mind.

He took out a porcelain vial containing seven elixir pills. These were the ones that Yang Tonghui gave him during the Spiritual Conference of Hanhai, the speciality elixir of the Heavenly Sword Sect, the Celestial Elixir.

Xiao Yan just completed the final step of the crafting process and produced another batch of quality elixirs. He extracted over ten pills of the Barrier-breaking Elixir and placed them in a gourd hanging on the wall.

He looked at Lin Feng curiously, "Master?"

Lin Feng smiled, "Xiao Yan, the secret of this Elixir Chamber lies not only in the increased success rates of crafting elixirs."

As he said this, he threw a Celestial Elixir pill into the air and used telekinesis to control the silver Eight Trigrams on the ceiling. In that instant, rays of silver light shot down and caught the elixir pill.

Once the silver light came in contact with the Celestial Elixir, it began to flash continuously, and a long passage of words appeared among the light.

Xiao Yao took a closer look, and his eyes immediately widened. He shrieked, "Master, this is the recipe for the Celestial Elixir!"

Lin Feng nodded smilingly, and thought to himself, "I guessed correctly. This Elixir Chamber is full of mysteries, and is far from simple."

With that in mind, a thought jolted Lin Feng. "If the Elixir Chamber is like this, then what about the Tripitaka Block?"

Chapter 226: The Three-Storey Tripitaka Block

Xiao Yan gazed at the silver light emitting from the Eight Trigrams pattern on the ceiling of the Elixir Chamber. An entire map of words appeared among the light.

Although he had never seen the actual recipe for the Celestial Elixir, nor consumed the Celestial Elixir before, Xiao Yan could immediately identify the map of words as the real recipe for the Celestial Elixir. And on the first line of the list of ingredients, was the 'Nine Steps to Heaven' Herb.

Xiao Yan's eyes glimmered in excitement, "Master, our Elixir Chamber can even use existing elixirs to elicit their recipes?"

"Not bad, it's indeed so." Lin Feng wore a calm expression as if he had known this previously, but he was actually as surprised as Xiao Yan was.

The crafting of elixirs does not only involve harnessing the herbal essence and spiritual energy within the ingredients but also comprises various complex changes and combinations.

A recipe, too, is not just a simple list of ingredients, but an integration of multiple skill sets.

Even all-powerful Immortal Soul cultivators cannot elicit a complete recipe from an existing elixir.

Perhaps there may be a chance using lower-level elixirs, but it would be completely out of the question for more advanced elixirs.

The Eight Trigrams Formation on the ceiling of the Celestial Golden Pavilion could actually elicit the recipe using an existing elixir, which for Lin Feng was definitely something worth rejoicing about. And it was not just because he could now expand the recipe archives of his Elixir Chamber on a large scale.

More importantly, the Celestial Sect of Wonders could possibly recover ancient elixir recipes that have been lost in the sands of time.

Over the tens of thousands of years of the Grand Celestial World's history, countless sects had risen, and countless great cultivators had been born, but many sects have also been annihilated, and many great men have fallen, drowned in the long river of history.

And with their demise, many precious mantras, abhijna, and elixir recipes have been lost.

Some of these elixirs and medicines still have completed elixir pills being circulated around, but the recipes have been completely lost.

Without the original recipe, new elixirs of the same kind cannot be produced, and remaining existing pills will definitely be used up one day. In the end, these elixirs cannot escape the inevitable fate of disappearing from the face of the earth for good.

"If I can get my hands on these elixirs, I can use the Celestial Golden Pavilion to retrieve their lost recipes." Lin Feng pondered for a bit. "Hmm, perhaps the true value may not lie within the elixir itself. Operating the Celestial Golden Pavilion well may yield other rewards."

Of course, having the recipe does not necessarily guarantee successful crafting. Some elixirs require unique and rare ingredients.

Take the Celestial Elixir for example. Without the 'Nine Steps to Heaven' Herb, the elixir cannot be crafted just with the recipe.

But despite this, this realization was invaluable for Lin Feng. He cracked his mind and instantly churned out many different ideas. "I'll try to collect as many high-level and rare elixirs as possible, even one is fine."

Besides collecting other elixirs, Lin Feng also reminded Xiao Yan not to stop renewing his skills.

After he exited the Elixir Chamber, Lin Feng went to the neighbouring Tripitaka Block.

Compared to the brilliantly grandiose Celestial Golden Pavilion, the Tripitaka Block was evidently more rustic and modest, with an antique charm to it.

The Tripitaka Block was close to ten meters tall and consisted of three levels. The building was constructed using emerald bamboo that flashed with a purplish glow.

Lin Feng entered the block, first into the spacious outer room, then he continued further in. He passed through a passageway to where the first storey library was.

The library was thousands of square meters wide and was neatly lined with rows and rows of bookshelves, just that all of them were empty at this moment.

Lin Feng frowned, "Does this mean I'll have to fill these up myself?"

His fingers grazed the bookshelves, and sensed the mild spiritual energy flowing within them. The tracks were faint but distinct, and Lin Feng felt a tingle in his heart.

After stroking the shelves for a while more, the pupils in Lin Feng's eyes suddenly glowed with purple light.

Amidst the purple light, paragraphs of cryptic incantations flowed continuously. This was the Great Thunderclap Temple's Dharma Mantra which Lin Feng previously obtained from the Lottery System - the Art of Acalanātha.

When he first obtained the Art of Acalanātha from the System, it only contained the first half of the mantra. Only afterwards when

he slaughtered the monks of the Black Cloud Earth Palace, did Lin Feng obtain the complete mantra.

But he did not release the full version now, instead using just the first half of the Art of Acalanātha.

Under the effect of Lin Feng's mana, the lines of words condensed into a book of Buddhist scriptures with a purple cover and gilt words, and landed on the shelf.

Lin Feng calmed down and observed it for a moment, but the scriptures showed no changes, and the shelves and library did not react either.

After mulling over it, Lin Feng channelled his mana into the bookshelf.

All of a sudden, the bookshelf's internal spiritual energy flow began to change. It began diverging from its original trajectory course as it absorbed and converted Lin Feng's mana, and channelled it into the Buddhist scriptures on the shelf.

The scriptures started to transform. The physical, tangible book was cloaked in a brilliant purple light, and gradually morphed into a virtual shadow.

The shadow slowly increased in size as countless cryptic runes dotted around within the purple light before merging into the shadow. Once the purple light faded, the shadow reverted to a

physical entity, back into the shape of a scripture book.

But the book of Buddhist scriptures was evidently twice as thick as before.

Lin Feng flipped it open, and noticed that it already contained the full version of the Art of Acalanātha.

"Is this all?" Lin Feng scanned the rows of bookshelves in the library and frowned. He laid the scriptures down and walked to the centre of the first-storey library.

There was a spell formation silently emanating a soft glow. Once Lin Feng stepped into the formation, the light instantly became blinding, and in the next moment, Lin Feng was already transported to the Tripitaka Block's second-storey library.

Compared to the first storey which was packed with bookshelves, the second storey was very empty. There was nothing in the wide empty space.

Lin Feng walked up to a wall, and noticed the multiple reels of scrolls hanging on the wall, just that these open scrolls were completely blank with nothing written on them.

After quietly sensing the aura of the scrolls, Lin Feng lifted his finger and fired a ray of purple light which landed on a blank scroll.

Many dark green images surfaced among the purple light, flying around continuously. Once the image touched the scroll, it swiftly melted into the scroll.

The originally blank scroll was suddenly decorated with a lifelike scene of green mountains and rivers.

Lin Feng's consciousness entered the scroll, and the scenery before him instantly changed, as if he had actually stepped into a world of green.

In this world, the dark green Grand Moon Primordial Water flowed quietly, but being in this world, Lin Feng was enlightened by the real meaning of the Mantra of the True Understanding of the Grand Moon, and experienced the mystifying spiritual powers of the Grand Moon Primordial Water that can create the heavens and earth.

Lin Feng's consciousness exited that world, and his finger pointed towards another empty scroll beside him, shooting out another ray of purple light. This time round, gold images flickered amidst the purple light.

The second scroll also transformed instantly when in contact with the purple light. The blank scroll now depicted a scorching sun shining down from the skies.

Lin Feng's consciousness entered the scroll, and everything before him was showered with the golden, resplendent holy light from the Grand Sun Primordial Flame. Being in an entirely golden

world, he could clearly feel the intense heat of the Grand Sun Primordial Flame, and the esoteric mystery of the Scripture of the Great Heaven-Illuminating Sun.

"These scrolls can follow the recorded mantras to conjure a section of space, a space constructed completely from the profound scriptures of the Taoist mantras."

Lin Feng already understood what was going on. "Practicing a unique mantra in such a space would yield twice the results with just half the effort, and greatly increase the training efficiency."

Lin Feng was very satisfied with this realization. He was not in a hurry to fill the scrolls up, and just headed up to the third storey straightaway.

The first and second storeys each have their magical uses, so the third storey should be even more fantastical.

After riding the formation up to the third storey, Lin Feng scanned the scene before him and was slightly dazed.

The third storey's floor area was much smaller than the first two storeys, with a spacious, simple layout. There were only a few bamboo tables and chairs, and one could gaze at the world outside the Tripitaka Block through the railings.

There were no peculiarities. It looked as normal as the living quarters of very down-to-earth people.

Lin Feng naturally did not believe that the Tripitaka Block's third storey was as normal as it seemed. He probed around using his mana, and it triggered a reaction akin to being rebounded off a wall.

He frowned, and went over to the railings and looked into the distance.

The Elixir Chamber was just beside the Tripitaka Block, and in the distance was the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree with an incomparably thick trunk. Under the Treasure Tree, Zhu Yi sat there upright and cross-legged, and in front of him were the new disciples, over thirty of them.

Zhu Yi had undoubtedly immersed himself in the role, and was imparting mantras to them.

Lin Feng smiled and gently stroked the purple bamboo railings. His mind was one with the entire Tripitaka Block, and he slowly pried for some clues.

"It seems like I'll need to advance to the Immortal Soul stage before I can truly unlock the magical uses of the Tripitaka Block's third storey." Lin Feng had an inkling but just shrugged his shoulders. "Heck it. The first two storeys are adequate for now."

As he pondered, the System's prompting voice suddenly rang in Lin Feng's head. "System upgrading complete. The Lottery System and the Exchange System can now be used."

Lin Feng sprung back to life, and his consciousness entered the Lottery System immediately.

But this time, instead of entering it straight, he was first greeted by a hint from the System.

"The System has reached Level 3. The Host's newest privilege is that, the Host automatically receives one chance for the Lottery at the start of each month!"

Lin Feng was stunned for a good long while before regaining his composure. But his first reaction was not to rejoice, instead he became incredibly wary.

F*ck, could the System be plotting something?

In view of the System's usual tendency to provide deceiving messages, Lin Feng had no reservations for testing it out with the greatest scepticism.

After examining the System's explanation carefully, he could not identify any signs of wordplay, nor did it seem like a trap. Lin Feng wondered, "Has the sun risen in the west?"

Unfortunately, it was already past the start of May. If he wanted to verify whether the System was scheming something, he needed to wait until June.

"Heck it. I'll see what tricks you're trying to pull then." Lin Feng thought over it then threw this matter to the back of his mind for now, and entered the Lottery System.

"I'll just use the two Lottery chances I obtained from taking in new disciples. These two chances shouldn't pose any problems."

Lin Feng first entered the Spin-a-wheel page, which he had the most confidence in. After examining the list of possible prizes, his eyes widened, "This one's great!"

The Spiritual Replenishment Elixir. It can raise the talent and innate ability of the cultivator that consumes it. The first consumption is effective.

Once Lin Feng noticed this, he could not pry his eyes away for a moment.

"Since the Elixir Chamber can use the existing elixir to elicit its recipe, if I get my hands on just one Spiritual Replenishment Elixir pill, I can mass-produce this elixir."

Lin Feng hesitated no more. He immediately locked on to the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir, and began spinning the wheel to draw a prize.

Chapter 227: The Spiritual Replenishment Elixir

Having roughly calculated the position of the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir, Lin Feng had a gauge of what to do and began spinning the wheel.

Lin Feng fixed his eyes nervously on the spinning wheel. After three complete rotations, the wheel started spinning at a slower speed and after laboriously going for another half a round, it was about to stop.

Lin Feng's eyes narrowed. According to his estimations, the wheel would spin for three and a half rounds and stop at the third box which contained the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir.

According to the regulations, the wheel would spin for three and a half rounds before stopping within the first to the fourth boxes.

Lin Feng had previously chosen the third box, and succeeded, so he chose the third box this time out of habit again.

But a one-in-four probability would not bless him every time. This time, the God of Luck just brushed past Lin Feng's shoulders. The wheel spun for three and a half rounds and stopped at the second box, refusing to move another inch forward.

Lin Feng shook his head. Things that relied on luck simply cannot be forced.

After looking at the reward he received, Lin Feng scratched his head. Before attempting the Lottery, he already observed the other prizes surrounding the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir and recognised his alternative choices.

The Dragon Tendon Rope. It is made from the tendons of the Immemorial Celestial Dragon, which are incredibly durable, being one of the toughest materials in existence in the Grand Celestial World. After being made into rope, the tensile strength and durability had become top-notch.

Lin Feng examined the Dragon Tendon Rope before him carefully. It has evidently undergone further processing, being thinner than a finger and completely dyed in a faint gold hue, emanating forth the overpowering aura of dragons.

Even though the dragon was dead, with the tendons extracted to make rope, but the sturdy vigour and spiritual energy within the dragon's blood were still inside.

"Dragon Tendon, Dragon Tendon ..." Lin Feng suddenly tightened his grasp around the Dragon Tendon Rope. An idea had struck him. "The Zhuyan Demon Eye that Yan Mingyue gave me, is formed from the eyeball of an Immemorial Celestial Dragon at the level of a Demonic Grand Sage."

The Zhuyan Demon Eye that Yan Mingyue gave as a congratulatory gift was indeed a precious treasure, but Lin Feng had not had any plans to test its capabilities.

The Zhuyan Demon Eye was no doubt a Magic Treasure Embryo, but that did not mean that anyone who got their hands on it could develop it into a Magic Treasure.

There was still that saying, Magic Treasures are treasures that can only be generated by great Immortal Soul cultivators, just that this is not an easy task even for them. They too need to find Magic Treasure Embryos that yielded the spiritual energy of the heavens and earth.

Creating a Magic Treasure from scratch is impossibly difficult, which is why Magic Treasure Embryos are extremely precious.

And even if cultivators below the Immortal Soul stage manage to obtain Magic Treasure Embryos, they can only look at them and salivate. Attempting to forcefully craft a treasure can only yield two possible outcomes.

One, the embryo becomes completely ruined. Although it might still be a precious treasure, it would lose its spiritual energy, and the final product would be a Nascent Soul stage Magic Item at best.

Two, the embryo's spiritual energy overflows, and repels the unqualified cultivator, and may even escape.

Lin Feng has never shied away from harbouring suspicions for others with utmost mistrust, and to him, Yan Mingyue seemed to bear intentions to observe how long Lin Feng would take to cultivate the Zhuyan Demon Eye into a true Magic Treasure.

If Lin Feng accomplished this task quickly, then Yan Mingyue could confirm that Lin Feng had reached the Immortal Soul stage.

But if Lin Feng did not make a move, Yan Mingyue would inevitably become suspicious and come up with various speculations.

"The Zhuyan Demon Eye, Dragon Tendon ... Immemorial Celestial Dragon, hm, perhaps this might work!" After contemplating for a moment, Lin Feng cracked a smile. "Under normal circumstances, Magic Treasures can only be crafted by Immortal Soul cultivators."

"But I'm not an ordinary person. It'll just be very difficult, with very intricate planning required."

With his mind set on an idea, Lin Feng threw this matter to the back of his mind for now and turned his attention back to the Lottery System.

The first spin did not yield the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir, which made Lin Feng slightly depressed.

And the second attempt would reshuffle the prizes. Lin Feng entered the Lottery System to check out his options and became even more dejected.

This time round, the prizes offered by the Lottery System did not

even include the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir. Both the Spin-a-wheel System and the Dice System showed no sign of the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir.

Lin Feng cursed silently, exited the Lottery System, then entered the Exchange System. The list of items was unveiled, and Lin Feng was suddenly greeted by the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir once again.

"Don't get excited yet." Lin Feng took a deep breath and calmed his nerves before checking the trading price of the elixir. With one glance, his vision momentarily turned black.

8000 exchange points!

Among all the available elixirs and medicines in the Exchange System, its price was only second to the Trāyastriṃśa Elixir of Creation.

Lin Feng instantly became crestfallen. His entire accumulated net worth did not even reach this price of 8000.

The thing Lin Feng resented the System the most for would be their ambiguously deceiving punishments, and the thing he resented next would be his abysmally low exchange points.

The main point was about not the low number of points he had, but with such little points, the prices of desirable things in the Exchange System were sky-high!

This made Lin Feng particularly want to swear and curse.

He previously earned a large amount at the auction at the Spiritual Conference of Hanhai, and Mei Wulang also gave him a large congratulatory sum on behalf of the Zhou Emperor Liang Pan at the Sect-opening Ceremony. In the real world, Lin Feng's net worth was already a considerable amount.

He cannot compare to the big players with sects running for tens of thousands of years, but compared to the average person, Lin Feng was already an indisputably rich man.

But in his own Exchange System, Lin Feng was always terribly poor, and could never enjoy the thrill of unrestricted shopping.

Staring at his meagre few hundred exchange points, then looking at the price of the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir again, Lin Feng became so despondent that he wanted to punch someone.

He swore, if the Exchange System was a shop in the real world, he would definitely barge in and rob it.

Lin Feng exhaled a long breath of impure aura and exited the Exchange System, returning to the Lottery System.

With only one chance left, Lin Feng unhesitatingly selected the Lucky Draw System, gunning only for the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir!

The Lucky Draw has four different lots. Drawing the red lot's special prize would allow Lin Feng to obtain his desired item from the Exchange System. It is akin to using a chip to exchange for the item and works even if the item's price is a few hundred thousand exchange points.

Lin Feng wanted the red lot in order to obtain the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir.

Just that figuring out what to use as collateral for the chip was a real pain. After checking the available property he could use, Lin Feng went into deep thought, "Those Buddhist relics? They're not very suitable, though I believe that these relics would have an unreplaceable role in certain situations."

"The Black Crow Jade Sculpture? This thing conceals dark mantras in it and still has its uses but it's nowhere as precious as the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir, so the chances of drawing a red lot would be very slim."

"It's the same for the Wind and Thunder Sigel."

Lin Feng already handed the three Nascent Soul Magic Items to Xiao Yan and the others, which included the Desolate Nine Thunder Divine Web, Heaven and Earth Mirror, and the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness. Lin Feng has no intention of taking them back.

"Right, I almost forgot." After pondering for a bit, Lin Feng

knocked his head and took out an ink brush.

It was the Spring and Autumn Brush, the personal Magic Item of Zhang Hai, the household manager of the Marquis of Xuanji.

At that time, Zhang Hai was imprisoned inside Lin Feng's Celestial Small World and was almost obliterated to dust by the Destruction of Heaven and Earth Spell. Fortunately, Mei Wulang pleaded for his life in time, and Lin Feng spared him.

But Lin Feng just seized his Spring and Autumn Brush for himself.

The Spring and Autumn Brush was Zhang Hai's personal magic weapon, and when coupled with his Abhijina Celestial Talisman, it can unleash incredible amounts of firepower. During the battle on the barren plains outside Shazhou City, although Zhu Yi could hold his ground against him, Zhang Hai gained the upper hand as the battle progressed.

In that battle, Zhu Yi, Xiao Yan, and Xiao Budian fought against the three great Nascent Soul stage cultivators. Although Zhu Yi applied the greatest pressure on their opponents, his odds of victory were the slightest.

Previously, two Nascent Soul stage elders from the Great Thunderclap Temple perished at the hands of Zhang Hai, which proved how formidable his Abhijina and mana were.

But to Lin Feng, this Spring and Autumn Brush could not be put to good use. It was not compatible with any mantras or Abhijina he mastered in.

But it could not be any more suitable to be used as collateral for the Lucky Draw.

Lin Feng immediately placed the Spring and Autumn Brush down and stared at the bamboo cup of lots in the Lucky Draw space. Soon enough, thirty lots appeared above the cup.

Six red lots!

Lin Feng confirmed his sight immediately and heaved a small sigh of relief. The highest possible occurrence of red lots was six, a 20% chance, he could not ask for more.

Besides the six red lots, there were fifteen long white lots that would randomly select a prize, six normal white lots that would return the collateral with no net gain, and three short white lots that would leave him empty-handed.

Lin Feng heaved a long sigh of relief. Using a Nascent Soul stage magic item was indeed the right choice.

The number of red lots and long white lots that would yield better results totalled up to 21. A 70% chance was already pretty high.

Lin Feng still remembered the first time he participated in the Lucky Draw, there were only three red lots and nine long white lots, which added up to a mere 14% chance.

"Start shaking the lots!" At Lin Feng's order, thirty lots fell into the bamboo cup and starting shuffling rapidly. It stopped shortly after, and all the lots sat quietly in the cup.

The exposed portions of the lots were all identical. Lin Feng waited no longer and just relied on his luck, swiftly picking one random lot.

When the lot was drawn out from the cup, Lin Feng instantly let out a wail.

F*ck!

It's white!

Lin Feng then forced a crumpled smile that looked more painful than someone crying. "It can't be that I've exhausted all my luck during my previous attempts, can it?"

He gazed at his lot, and made a wry smile. At least he had some consolation, the lot he drew was a long white one.

Although the System's explanations state that long white lots would randomly draw a prize to trade with the collateral offered, but based on past experiences, the randomly selected prize may not

necessarily be too shabby, and may even be quite useful.

For instance, Lin Feng's first Sect Construction Deed was obtained by drawing a long white lot.

"I can only comfort myself like this now." Lin Feng shook his head and watched as the long white lot flickered thrice in mid-air and morphed into a ray of white light which landed in front of him.

The white light dissipated to reveal a box.

Lin Feng blinked his eyes. He opened the box, but the box was completely empty.

Then, the System's prompter rang in Lin Feng's ears. After hearing the message, Lin Feng was momentarily stunned but soon broke out into laughter.

"How did that old saying go again? When the heavens close a door on you, they will definitely open a window for you."

"Haha, the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir, I'm coming for you!"

Chapter 228: An Overly Exquisite Mantra Causes Problems Too

Lin Feng was already half-crestfallen after drawing a long white lot from the Lucky Draw. But he didn't expect that the prize obtained from the lot was a box.

When he opened the box up, a prompt from the System rang in his ears.

"Congratulations to the Host for receiving a big gift hamper of exchange points!"

Lin Feng was stunned, but soon let out a bright smile, "How did that old saying go again? When the heavens close a door on you, they will definitely open a window for you."

"If you're supposed to be mine, you can't run away."

After he was done laughing, Lin Feng calmed himself down. "Hold on, I can't be too happy yet. Who knows how many points a big gift hamper even contains? If it's just 1800 points then I would've been rejoicing for nothing."

It's not impossible, after all when he opened his novice big gift hamper, there were only 300 exchange points inside, which was extremely pathetic.

Lin Feng entered the Exchange System with some apprehension and checked his existing point balance carefully, and immediately gasped.

The big gift hamper gave him 10,000 exchange points!

Lin Feng only regained his composure after a good long while and laughed heartily. "I'm now a rich man too! I leapt from poverty to luxury overnight!"

"The Spiritual Replenishment Elixir, I'm coming for you!"

He didn't bother with anything else and immediately grabbed the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir, and 8000 exchange points disappeared in a flash.

Even though his finances shrunk rapidly, Lin Feng thoroughly enjoyed the adrenaline rush from spending such a hefty amount at one go.

The point was that he was too poor in the past, and had to painstakingly delegate his 1800 points to be spent very thriftily, and could only salivate over the few thousand prizes that he could not afford.

He didn't even dare to look at his 10,000+ point balance in fear of getting a heart attack.

Lin Feng squeezed the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir in his hand

and scrutinized it closely. The elixir pill was as big as an infant's fist, and had a half-transparent snow white colour.

The centre of the elixir was black. This black core appeared and faded from view from time to time, like a gaping hole that was continuously being filled.

The most fascinating thing was when Lin Feng communicated with the elixir using his mind, he would sense faint signs of emotion, as if it was a sentient living thing.

"The biggest difference between magic treasures and magic items is, magic treasures can produce their own spiritual energy and gain consciousness." Lin Feng thought to himself, "Looking at this now, there are also prominent differences between high-level and low-level elixirs."

"High-level elixirs are like magic treasures. They can gain consciousness and gradually produce elixir spirits."

Lin Feng inspected the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir carefully and felt the herbal energy flowing within. He realized that even though the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir already showed signs of life, it was still unlike the Six Appearances Sword, still not truly possessing complete consciousness and memory.

He took the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir to the Celestial Golden Pavilion and used the silver Eight Trigrams to elicit its recipe.

This process took a little longer than the Celestial Elixir, but it was still very quick. The Spiritual Replenishment Elixir's recipe floated before Lin Feng's eyes.

Lin Feng read the recipe and realized, "Crafting the elixir may be difficult, but the challenges can be sufficiently overcome with the help of the Celestial Golden Pavilion and the Ethereal Heart Cauldron. But Mount Yujing does not seem to have all the necessary ingredients."

Lin Feng left the Celestial Golden Pavilion and went to the valley with the herb fields. When he reached the cliff, Lin Feng sensed someone's presence.

Standing on the mountain's summit, Lin Feng gazed down towards the valley and noticed a young man in purple squatting down, skillfully trimming a spiritual flower.

Trimming it this way would allow the flower to grow more robustly, and aids the blooming process.

Lin Feng nodded, "The System did mention that Yang Qing has a talent for growing spiritual herbs and medicines, but it seems like this isn't just talent. He is personally very passionate about this art, it's like his special hobby."

Yang Qing wore a faint smile, and his actions were graceful and smooth, containing a rich artistic rhythm.

Lin Feng always remembered Yang Qing to be gentle and humble, usually displaying self-restraint and low self-esteem, and has rarely seen him doing something in such a relaxed and confident manner.

After trimming the spiritual flower, Yang Qing stood up and let out a carefree smile.

But this smile quickly faded, and his expression turned sombre and forlorn. Although his vision was obstructed by the valley, he still gazed into the distance.

Lin Feng acutely identified hints of rage, perplexity, and franticness masked under his melancholy.

"Is he thinking about the Cloud Water Cave Sect which was mysteriously wiped out?"

Lin Feng didn't mind Yang Qing reminiscing about his previous sect. After all, sentimental people are always better than ungrateful jackals.

Yang Qing was dazed for a while, then lowered his head to look at the spiritual flowers and herbs below, suddenly losing his zest and even feeling some guilt and self-blame.

He went to a corner and sat down cross-legged, and began meditating with utmost concentration.

Lin Feng shook his head and went over to Yang Qing, saying,

"Having determination is indeed a good thing, but forcefully suppressing your own nature will only be counter-productive."

Yang Qing was startled and hastily stood up to bow to Lin Feng.
"Mas ... Master."

Lin Feng gestured for him to be seated, then joined him on the ground and said slowly, "You have a gentle temperament, and you love nature. Although you may be slightly lazy, this may not be the most suitable path for you."

Yang Qing pursed his lips and replied softly, "I know very well that my skills are lacking. And when Master accepted me as your direct disciple, I became very anxious, so I want to work hard to not disappoint Master."

He paused, then his voice became even lower. "The Cloud Water Cave Sect has been obliterated. I feel so bitter and enraged, but I don't even know who the culprits are. I don't know what to do, but I keep thinking that increasing my strength would still be helpful."

Lin Feng smiled, "Everyone has their own path to take, a path that suits them. Trying to change things isn't wrong, but if the change is the polar opposite of your innate character, then it won't yield your desired results."

Yang Qing chuckled in embarrassment. "Third Senior hasn't even erected his spiritual altar and is already so strong, yet he is still not satisfied and is striving even harder now. When I see him working so hard, I can't help but want to learn from him."

Lin Feng grinned, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

The Third Senior that Yang Qing mentioned naturally referred to Wang Lin.

"Is everyone that easily drawn towards things that others possess but they themselves lack?" Lin Feng pondered in confusion. He wanted to say that, Wang Lin and Yang Qing were on two extremes ends of the spectrum.

Not just in terms of talent and potential, even their personalities were the polar opposites of each other.

Lin Feng said calmly, "As I said just now, everyone has their own path to take. Learning from others' strengths is a good thing, but you must recognize your realistic limits."

"You are even-tempered, and lean towards nature. Arduous training does not suit you. Get closer to nature and understand the laws and principles that govern it, this would inspire you more during your training."

Yang Qing nodded vigorously, "I shall abide by Master's words."

Lin Feng looked at the herb fields before him and laughed, "From today onwards, I'll put you in-charge of this place. Would you be willing to take on this task?"

Yang Qing was dazed. "Me, in-charge?"

"You needn't worry that this would hold up your mantra training." Lin Feng looked at Yang Qing and said composedly, "These herbs will keep you company. This way, the increase in your mastery levels will be faster than rigorous, arduous training."

"How can I not be willing?" Yang Qing shook his head and exclaimed. "If Master intends as such, I will definitely obey. I'm just worried that I won't do it well, and I'll ruin these superb fields."

Lin Feng shook his head and smiled, "The soil here has been enriched and fertilized by your Big Senior's Lucky, and with your Grand Moon Primordial Water watering it, as long as you don't mess around, it wouldn't go to ruin."

Yang Qing promptly replied, "Yes, Master, I'll do my best. I won't betray Master's trust in me."

"Relax, I didn't think you would be so serious." Lin Feng chuckled and pointed with his finger, summoning a ray of purple clouds in front of Yang Qing. When the purple clouds dissipated, a scarlet roll of silk appeared before Yang Qing.

"This is the Demon-Destroying Crimson Silk. It's an Aurous Core stage magic item, but it cannot be used in battle and has no effect in repelling enemies." Lin Feng explained, "But this has miraculous effectiveness in quelling your inner demons and impure thoughts. I'm giving this to you."

Upon hearing this, Yang Qing gleefully accepted the Demon-Destroying Crimson Silk, and was not at all indignant or unhappy that this magic item was useless in battle; instead, he was beaming joyfully, "Thank you very much, Master!"

Lin Feng smiled as his opinion of Yang Qing just became a little higher, but not because he was grateful, not greedy, or not overly ambitious.

It was because Yang Qing clearly identified the biggest obstacle impeding his own training - his mind was not firm, and could easily fall prey to his inner demons.

Recognising one's strengths and weaknesses well, honestly admitting them, and diligently finding solutions to remedy those weaknesses may sound easy, but these are things that many people actually cannot do.

Lin Feng then called Yue Hongyan telepathically, asking her to come over too.

In a flash, Yue Hongyan rushed over to the herb valley. She still had long hair that looked like flames, but she changed out of her red robes and donned a purple one.

After being officially inducted into Lin Feng's sect, Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing changed to clothes with a similar style to Xiao Yan and the others.

Besides Yue Hongyuan, Zhu Yi and Xiao Budian also tagged along.

After they bowed to greet Lin Feng, Lin Feng ignored Zhu Yi and Xiao Budian first and smiled at Yue Hongyan. "For all my direct disciples, I'll gift an Aurous Core stage magic item to each of them during their Foundation Establishment Stage. This is specially prepared for you."

With a flick of his finger, a ray of purple Qi carried a piece of soft armour to Yue Hongyan.

The soft armour was formed by numerous pieces of jade which were transparent and crystal clear. This was the formidably defensive Aurous Core stage magic item that Lin Feng obtained from the Lottery previously, the Ancient Jade Armour.

It looked as fragile as a piece of paper, like a dainty ornament on a shelf, but in fact, it had incredible defensive capabilities and was one of a kind among all the Aurous Core stage magic items.

Whether it was her combat skills or her full-on offensive battle strategies, Yue Hongyan's overall style was always reckless, indomitable, and ferociously ravaging.

Her battle style was just pure, brutal offence. If the enemy was fierce, she would be even fiercer. She fought fire with fire, and would never back down.

But as a result, such a battle style reduces her defence capabilities severely. If she is not careful, it would result in grave injuries on both sides, or both sides may perish together.

Lin Feng did not intend to correct her style, so he gave her the Ancient Jade Armour to address her weaknesses and heighten her defensive capabilities. If she butts heads with others in the future and the opponent is after her blood, she would still be prepared.

Yue Hongyan understood her own weaknesses too. Her face turned slightly red and she happily accepted the Ancient Jade Armour.

Lin Feng then turned to look at Zhu Yi and Xiao Budian, and smiled, "What's the matter?"

Zhu Yi bowed and replied, "Master, I've just explained the mantra to the new disciples, and discovered a problem. Our sect's Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams is too profound, and the new disciples cannot grasp its inherent abstractness."

Chapter 229: That Image Is Too Beautiful, I Can't Bear To Look At It

Zhu Yi bowed to greet Lin Feng, and said, "Master, I've just explained the mantras to the new disciples, and discovered a problem. Our sect's Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams is too profound, and there are no new disciples with an established foundation in mantras, so no one could grasp its inherent abstractness."

Lin Feng let out a faint smile, as he had expected this from the beginning.

Previously when his personal mastery and Qi cultivation reached a perfect Level 12, he integrated eight kinds of mantras and used the System to create the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams. This mantra was originally meant to be used during his own Foundation Establishment stage.

Later Xiao Yan, Zhu Yi, and the rest also completed their Qi Cultivation stage and prepared for their Foundation Establishment stages before learning the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams.

Lin Feng's reasoning then was that his sect's signature mantra could only truly take off during the Foundation Establishment stage, and when Xiao Yan and the others joined, the mantra had not been created yet. However, objectively speaking, the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams would indeed be too arcane for cultivators in the Qi Cultivation stage to comprehend.

This is especially so for inexperienced people with absolutely no background in Qi cultivation. Although learning the Taoist scriptures would not be impossible, the difficulties faced would be greater, as the scriptures would seem too abstract and complex. This requires very high levels of intelligence, comprehension, and perceptiveness.

Hence, among those who had not completed their Qi Cultivation stage, there was only one person who could harness the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams - Lin Feng's third disciple, Wang Lin.

But who was Wang Lin? Although his innate ability was sub par, his intelligence reached freakishly exceptional levels.

Regarding this matter, Lin Feng had already found a solution. After all, a sect needed an extremely basic mantra that can be picked up by new disciples with no prior experience.

However, he did not reveal his solution immediately as he wanted to see how Zhu Yi would tackle this challenge.

"In your opinion, how should we resolve this problem?" Lin Feng asked with a smile.

Zhu Yi lifted his head and looked at his master, and thought to himself, "Looks like Master already had a plan from the start, but he's using this to test me."

He already formed a rough outline in his head and did not panic. He replied calmly, "I came up with two solutions to deal with situations like this, and I would like Master to review them."

"In the first solution, like how Master first taught us, we would teach each disciple in accordance with their individual aptitude. By selecting a method tailored to the disciples' various individual foundations, we would introduce them to the basics. And when the time is ripe, we then impart the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams."

"In the second solution, we would create a simplified version of the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams for the new disciples to practice. Once they have built up their foundations, we can then impart them the full version of the mantra."

Zhu Yi paused, then softly said, "I have spent the last few days organizing the teaching material, and I've revised and drafted a simplified version of the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams, but I would need Master to vet it."

Lin Feng let out a smile, "Zhu Yi, you've done well. I can see your effort."

Not only did Zhu Yi work hard in educating the new disciples, he also invested much effort in practising his mantras.

Breaking down a mantra to obtain a simplified version was by no means a trivial task, and did not just involve mere cancellations

and corrections. The essential, profound components of the mantra could not be distorted. Maintaining its integrity was a task of utmost difficulty, and the one bearing this responsibility needed a deep and thorough understanding of the mantra.

When Yang Qing and Yue Hongyan gazed at Zhu Yi, it was evident that the duo revered him deeply. When they became Lin Feng's disciples and were taught the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams, they converted all their mana into Taoist Scripture mana.

The more one practised, the more one felt the esoteric profundity of the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams and realized the infinite possibilities waiting to be discovered.

Zhu Yi was able to make adjustments due to his solid foundation in the mantra, which Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing admired greatly.

Lin Feng chuckled, "The first method won't work. Previously, I used this method to allow you all to explore and realize your individual talents freely. This was to nurture you all to produce your own personal interpretations and understanding of the ways of the world.

"But for these disciples, their situation is vastly different from yours." Lin Feng said bluntly, "Their innate talent differs greatly from yours. Hence, following the same path as you all would not be suitable for them."

Xiao Budian grinned but did not utter a word. Zhu Yi's expression remained unchanged. They were neither overly arrogant nor self-deprecatingly humble.

Lin Feng continued, "Thus, among the two solutions you proposed, the second one would be more viable."

Zhu Yi nodded, then handed over the simplified Taoist Scriptures he had prepared for Lin Feng to inspect.

After reading through them, Lin Feng did not speak and instead, seemed to be lost in thought.

"It's not bad, but if Wang Lin reaches the Aurous Core stage now and has a thorough grasp of the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams, entrusting this matter to someone with his intelligence would produce a better-simplified version of the mantra.

Obviously, Lin Feng could not say this to Zhu Yi's face. He smiled faintly and said, "Very good, but there are some areas that can be further improved."

Upon saying this, he made some corrections to Zhu Yi's simplified version of the mantra without changing the core essence of the mantra.

Lin Feng was the original creator of the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams, and having already formed his Nascent Soul, his comprehension and internalization of this mantra was nearly

perfect.

Previously, he had simplified the mantra for new, inexperienced disciples to practice. Naturally, he could now easily edit the imperfect parts of Zhu Yi's version.

Zhu Yi got back the corrected version and browsed through it, and instantly let out a sigh.

Xiao Budian who was reading from the side also laughed, "That's Master for you!"

Lin Feng patted his small head and jested, "What did you expect?" Xiao Budian retracted his head with a mischievous laugh.

Zhu Yi carried on saying, "Although this is the simplified version of the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams, it has evolved into an entirely new mantra. Master, please bestow it a name."

Xiao Budian snickered, "Since it's the simplified version, we should call it the Small Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams."

Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing, who were listening from the side, both cracked a smile.

Zhu Yi was momentarily rendered speechless, but he too shook his head and laughed.

Lin Feng glanced at Zhu Yi and suddenly felt like teasing him. He coughed and said, "Speaking of which, this mantra is the fruit of your labor and the result of your integrated compilations and personal interpretation of the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams."

"Erhem, hence this new mantra should be called Zhu Zi's Eight Trigrams Variorum."

"In short, Zhu Zi's Variorum."

Lin Feng thought to himself, "Senior Zhu Xi, I mean no disrespect, I hope you won't mind."

So what if he takes offence?

Crawl out of the grave and hit me if you can!

You're already in the afterlife!

Upon hearing what Lin Feng said, Zhu Yi's expression immediately became incredibly solemn and even started to take on a slightly sacred radiance.

"Zi is an age-old term used for wise saints who have enlightened the people, who all possess immense wisdom, compassion, courage, and righteousness. Hence, they would add the 'Zi' salutation behind their surname." He continued slowly, "Even though you are not eligible for this prestigious title yet, you must

strive hard towards this goal. There will come a day when you will live up to such a title, you definitely won't disappoint me!"

When Xiao Budian and the others heard this, they knew that this was Zhu Yi's aspiration, one that he strived towards with utmost earnestness.

Xiao Budian was no longer smiling. He patted Zhu Yi on the shoulder, "Second Senior, work hard!"

Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing also showered Zhu Yi with their blessings.

Lin Feng, however, grimaced at one side, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. "I swear I didn't mean it this way ..."

Whether or not he meant this, Zhu Yi was now totally overwhelmed by the adulation that he replied solemnly, "I have something to report to Master."

"After daily self-reflection and much thought, I have narrowed down eight values to abide by in order to discipline and motivate myself."

Zhu Yi said in a serious tone, "I have termed them as the Eight Principles, and have prepared them to be the benchmark for my everyday actions. Would Master be so kind as to point out any areas of improvement?"

"Very well, you ..." Lin Feng nodded with a smile, suddenly feeling that something wasn't quite right.

The corners of his mouth started to twitch uncontrollably as he fixed his stare on Zhu Yi.

"How many principles are there again?"

Zhu Yi blinked, "Eight principles."

"Eight principles?"

"Eight principles!"

Xiao Budian curiously asked from one side, "Second Senior, what Eight Principles?"

Zhu Yi cleared his throat, "One, constantly strive for self-improvement, and bear great responsibilities with great virtue."

"Two, be intelligent and prudent, and think before you act."

"Three, do not fear the strong, nor bully the weak."

"Four, do not lose your dignity when stricken with poverty, nor lose your way when blessed with prosperity."

"Five, strive towards your goals with boundless courage, and reflect upon your actions three times a day."

"Six, act with proper judgement, and lead a smooth-sailing life."

"Seven, respect your seniors, and protect your juniors."

"Eight, live to benefit all, and be one with the world."

"Huh?" Xiao Budian blinked his huge sparkling eyes, and exclaimed in frustration, "I don't understand!"

Yue Hongyan, who was standing at one side, looked slightly embarrassed, and whispered, "I don't understand the fourth, sixth and eighth principles."

Yang Qing mulled over them and said, "Do not lose your dignity when stricken with poverty, nor lose your way when blessed with prosperity. This principle probably means, in times of poverty, never lose sight of justice and righteousness. And after you've achieved greatness, don't turn your back on the proper, honourable path."

"Act with proper judgement, and lead a smooth-sailing life probably means, one must differentiate between right and wrong, treasure friendship, and love oneself, then one would not be led astray."

"Live to benefit all, and be one with the world. A scholar's

definition of benefit does not refer to personal gain, but to be useful to society. A gentleman who contributes to society can then co-exist harmoniously with the world."

Zhu Yi smiled and nodded, "It is just as Fifth Junior said, these are the values that I abide by. Creation, Success, Benefit, and Sincerity - these are a gentleman's four virtues. By enlightening the masses, they benefit, and can hence live fruitfully and subsequently inculcate these values to others. This should be our fundamental cause."

Xiao Budian chuckled, "Although I don't quite get it, this sounds really impressive."

"Second Senior, would these Eight Principles also be called Zhu Zi's Eight Principles?"

Zhu Yi laughed, "I wouldn't dare, these are just values that guide me in self-reflection."

As they were chatting up a storm, they did not notice how flustered Lin Feng had become.

Eight Principles ... and the Second Senior ...

As he gazed at Zhu Yi draped in purple robes and dressed like a scholar, Lin Feng could not help but picture a scene, where Zhu Yi's head was swapped for a ...

Wait! Stop!

The scene he imagined was too beautiful. He really should not continue picturing it in his mind.

"Zhu Yi, it suddenly dawned upon me. This mantra, we should call it Yi Zi's Eight Trigrams Variorum instead." The corners of Lin Feng's mouth curled upwards, and he coughed dryly, " Your ... Eight Principles can also be titled Yi Zi's Eight Principles."

Zhu Yi looked at Lin Feng, slightly perplexed. Lin Feng put on a neutral expression and said, "Your mother placed the word 'Yi' in your name, and bears the connotation of revolutionizing the world and changing the universe. You better live up to her expectations."

When Lin Feng mentioned Meng Bingyun, Zhu Yi immediately turned solemn, "I shall let Master decide everything. I will definitely remember your teachings with all my heart. I won't let Mother or Master down."

"That's good then, that's good." Lin Feng discreetly wiped off his cold sweat.

After sending Zhu Yi and the others off, a thought struck Lin Feng. He entered a Celestial Small World which he created using his own mana. There, the little Taotie Tun Tun was about to rage from sheer anxiety.

...

On the Sword of Radiance Sect's Lingyun Peak, Murong Yanran was sitting in her cave, dazed.

The Tong Ling Priestess looked at her and let out a sigh. She had just gotten wind of Xiao Yan's current mastery levels, which was far greater than Murong Yanran's.

"Actually, there is still a solution to this problem." The Tong Ling Priestess hesitated for a moment, gritted her teeth and exclaimed.

Murong Yanran's eyes suddenly flickered with hope. She anxiously tugged at the hem of the Tong Ling Priestess' robes, "Master, what solution is that?"

Chapter 230: The Runaway Bride

Murong Yanran could not describe her current emotions. Surprised, lost, panicked, flustered.

After years of dedicated cultivation in the old Wu City, her memory of that young man in black has already blurred.

She always believed that the young man's abilities and hers were worlds apart and that he would eventually mock himself for his youthful ignorance and throw his unrealistic dreams to the back of his mind, then go about his life earnestly.

And from then on, the two of them would have nothing to do with each other, and a hundred years later, the young man would be reduced to a pile of dirt, but how far could she go on her path of cultivation?

Murong Yanran had always believed this way. But now, the young man's bold words that day resounded in her mind once again, never so vividly before.

"Miss Murong, I'll leave you with a saying. Every dog has its day, don't look down on someone just because he is young and poor".

"I'll come back for you in three years!"

At this moment, those words that day were not just vivid memories anymore. After the Tong Ling Priestess told her about

the state of Xiao Yan and the Celestial Sect of Wonders, Xiao Yan's bold pronouncement that day became as heavy as a mountain, weighing down on Murong Yanran's heart and making her terribly breathless.

Seeing how petrified Murong Yanrong was, the Tong Ling Priestess hesitated for a second, then gritted her teeth and said, "Actually, there is still a solution to this problem."

Murong Yanran's eyes suddenly flickered with hope. She anxiously tugged at the hem of the Tong Ling Priestess' robes, "Master, what solution is that?"

Seeing Murong Yanran's desperation, like a drowning person grabbing onto a straw of hay for dear life, the Tong Ling Priestess tilted her head away, unable to look her in the eye.

"Prince Chongyun of the Great Qin Empire is going to choose a consort soon, and this is your only chance."

Murong Yanran's eyes were wide open. "Master ..."

The Tong Ling Priestess sighed. She too was shocked when the Azure Clouds Grandmaster suggested this plan.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster's intention was to marry Murong Yanran to Prince Chongyun before Xiao Yan challenges their sect. This way, he would be able to transfer the feud between Murong Yanran and Xiao Yan from the Sword of Radiance Sect to Prince

Chongyun.

The Great Qin Empire certainly does not have an autocratic rule like the Great Zhou Empire. The four aristocrat families of Qin are very influential and control huge amounts of resources. At the same time, the Mount Shu Sword Sect and the Sword of Radiance Sect have also monopolised many resources.

However, the royal family of the Great Qin Empire is not as weak as they seem. They still hold immense control within the Qin borders to be able to maintain diplomatic, interdependent relationships with the aristocrat families and the sects.

If Murong Yanran marries Prince Chongyun, she would not become an ordinary concubine, but a high-ranking consort second only to the crown princess.

If Xiao Yan dares to seek trouble, he might have to face the wrath of the entire Great Qin Empire.

Especially with the Celestial Sect of Wonders rising steadily in power, with a possible alliance with the Great Zhou Empire, it would be easier to trigger the various factions of the Great Qin Empire to act.

This tremendous force is far more powerful than the Sword of Radiance Sect alone.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster replied complacently, "Don't

even bother mentioning Xiao Yan. Even the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, Lin Feng, wouldn't dare to mess around with us."

The only worry was whether Prince Chongyun would willingly become the Sword of Radiance Sect's scapegoat and whether he, the heir to the Great Qin Empire, would be angered if the sect forces him to take a bullet for them.

When the Tong Ling Priestess surfaced these problems, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster just replied calmly, "You just need to follow my instructions, there's no need to ask about anything else. I have my plan."

How could he not have considered the problems that the Tong Ling Priestess raised? There were just some secrets of the Sword of Radiance Sect that she was not aware of but only made known to Nascent Soul stage Grandmasters like himself.

Long before he set off to Shazhou City to attend the Sect-opening Ceremony of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, the Leader of the Sword of Radiance Sect and the various sect Elders have already decided to implement certain changes to the direction the sect will be heading towards in the future, and to get closer to the Great Qin Empire.

Marrying Murong Yanran into the Qin's royal family can also foster stronger bonds between the Sword of Radiance Sect and the Great Qin Empire, thereby killing two birds with one stone. Furthermore, by having the support from the entire Sword of Radiance Sect, Prince Chongyun's heart would naturally be swayed to make a favourable decision.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster was not worried that Prince Chongyun would be unhappy as these matters could be discussed openly even before the marriage.

What he needed to plan was how to make Murong Yanran truly Prince Chongyun's consort. As far as he knew, there were quite a few people also aiming for that position.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster said composedly, "You don't have to care about anything else. Go inform Yanran so she would be prepared."

The Tong Ling Priestess looked at the astonished Murong Yanran and recalled the Azure Clouds Grandmaster's instructions. She sighed and said, "Yanran, you don't have to worry. Once you are married to Prince Chongyun as his consort, your rank would be second only to the Crown Princess."

"You will also have the sect backing you up, you don't have to worry about being bullied."

Murong Yanran was stunned and speechless. She could only stare at the Tong Ling Priestess in bewilderment as if she just met her Master for the first time.

The Tongling Priestess hardened her heart and said, "Could it be that you wish to reconcile with Xiao Yan after seeing how successful he is now?"

Murong Yanran shifted her eyes around, finally regained her composure. She said coldly, "Regardless whether it's the wastrel Xiao Yan then, or the genius Xiao Yan now, I will never regret my decision to cancel my engagement with him."

"What about your marriage to Prince Chongyun?" The Tong Ling Priestess continued.

Murong Yanran gazed up at the blue sky and white clouds above her abode and said calmly, "I'll leave everything for Master to decide."

"I'm glad that you can come to terms with it." The Tong Ling Priestess patted Murong Yanran's shoulder and left the abode to give her disciple some time to calm down.

Murong Yanran was the only one left in the abode. She closed her eyes gently and just sat there motionlessly.

After some time, she muttered under her breath, "I'm sorry, Master."

I will be the master of my own destiny! I don't need a life that others have arranged for me!

Murong Yanran opened her eyes and grinned in self-mockery. "Prince Chongyun's consort? What a noble rank, just a pity I don't care for it! If I let others arrange my marriage, why would I have

rejected Xiao Yan's marriage proposal then?"

She leapt to her feet and began packing her belongings, then left her abode unhurriedly, even stopping to greet her junior and seniors like she always did, acting completely natural. Half an hour later, the Tong Ling Priestess received news that Murong Yanran has left the mountain.

"Idiot, idiot!" The Tong Ling Priestess berated under her breath, wanting to report the matter to the Azure Clouds Grandmaster, but hesitated just before doing so.

Perhaps being a woman like Murong Yanran, caused her to bear a natural resistance towards the Azure Clouds Grandmaster's decision.

The Tong Ling Priestess shook her head and sighed, "I'll still have to report this matter to the Grandmaster eventually. My disciple, helping you stall for time is the only thing I can do for you now."

The Tong Ling Priestess soon regretted her decision. Just as she brought the news to the Azure Clouds Grandmaster, she noticed the usually calm old man's body shivering slightly.

"Find her... you must bring back this traitor!" The Azure Clouds Grandmaster completely lost his composure. His usual refined and gentle self thoroughly disappeared as he let out a ferocious roar. The Tong Ling Priestess was aghast, "Master, what in the world...."

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster panted heavily like a wind box. Depressed, he said, "I've just contacted Prince Chongyun, and he has already mentioned that he will travel here personally to discuss this matter."

The Tong Ling Priestess gasped, "That was so fast ..." She did not dare continue as the Azure Clouds Grandmaster's eyes were flaring with rage. She quickly excused herself in search of Murong Yanran.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster took a long while to regain his composure, with his old face completely wrinkled into a chrysanthemum.

Extreme joy really begets sorrow. He thought that Murong Yanran would be elated to marry Prince Chongyun, but he was awfully wrong.

Who would have thought that Murong Yanran would give up the prestigious title of the Crown Prince's consort and immediately run away? The Azure Clouds Grandmaster contacted the Prince Chongyun without first securing Murong Yanran and now, a total tragedy has unfolded.

The runaway bride Murong Yanran would definitely bring about a terrifying disaster.

With Prince Chongyun getting stood up and no one left to duel Xiao Yan, the pressure from both sides was now crushing the Sword of Radiance Sect, and perhaps completely borne by the

Azure Clouds Grandmaster alone.

It was truly as if he had lifted a rock up to crush his own feet.

He instantly felt his whole world becoming purely black and white.

"I must get that brat back!"

....

Back on Mount Yujing, Zhu Yi gathered the newest version of the teaching materials to continue his lesson. Xiao Budian followed him just to join in the fun.

Yang Qing stayed behind in the herb valley to tend to the spiritual herbs and medicines. Although his Grand Moon Primordial Water cannot be compared to the One Heavenly Primordial Water when it comes to combining compounds together, it is still a highly beneficial spring-water for all forms of life and works wonders for watering the herb fields.

On the other hand, Yue Hongyan continued to study her mantras. After training in the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams, she could sense that her mantras have shown excellent improvement, and believed that she would soon be able to form her crucible.

Lin Feng sent his disciples on their way and allowed his

consciousness to enter one of the Celestial Small Worlds.

In this world of purple clouds, the little Taotie Tun Tun was going around in circles restlessly. She was incredibly annoyed not just because she was robbed of her freedom, but being a glutton, she was more irritated that she could not enjoy the sumptuous meal that laid before her.

Lin Feng's Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds were among the most delicious and concentrated things that Tun Tun has ever eaten in her life.

If she had not been taught a lesson by Lin Feng previously, she would have already devoured the Celestial Small World made of Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds that was imprisoning her.

Upon noticing Lin Feng approaching, she pursed her lips and grunted loudly, "You big liar, when exactly are you letting me go? Also, are you going to honour your word regarding the delicious food you promised?"

Lin Feng pursed his lips too. "The last sentence was your main point, right?"

Tun Tun's face flushed red and exclaimed ferociously, "So what? I'm a Taotie!"

"Don't panic, don't panic." Lin Feng smiled and said, "The first light of dawn is right before you."

With that, he pointed a finger to clear the Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds that formed the Celestial Small World and destroying the prison that trapped Tun Tun.

Tun Tun went blank for a moment before finally cheering, "I'm finally free!"

She reached for the ground and inhaled the rich spiritual energy of Mount Yujing greedily. As she gazed around Mount Yujing, her eyes widened, "This is wonderful!"

"All this delicious food!"

Chapter 231: An Eating Monster Causing Trouble At Mount Yujing

Tuntun landed at the peak of Mount Yujing and she scanned her surroundings. She started to salivate. "Gosh, am I dreaming? There is so much good food here?"

For a Taotie, its innate talent was its ability to eat anything. The only difference laid in whether the food was tasty, whether it could be digested and whether it would cause stomach upset.

There was no such thing as "It could not be eaten".

In Tuntun's eyes, the spiritual herbs and medicine in the medicine farm in the mountain valley, the disciples who were listening to Zhu Yi's preaching under the tree, the branches of the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree above it and even the stones of Mount Yujing were fragrant delicacies.

"Better not eat the humans, otherwise a good half of them will stare at me anxiously." Tuntun wiped off her saliva and secretly peeped at Lin Feng. After that, she cheered loudly before rushing towards the medicine farm in the mountain valley.

Lin Feng shook his head and his laughter disappeared. He had a mild tingling in his heart, which communicated with everyone in the mountain.

"I have a spiritual pet, which is a young Taotie. It is now active in

the mountains. Nanhua and Shihao, do not interfere. Xiao Yan, the few of you will be responsible for catching it alive.

"Take it as a homework that I am giving to all of you."

Everyone agreed in unison, before Xiao Yan and the rest began to act rapidly.

When no one was looking, Lin Feng smiled with ill intentions, "Also to let all of you know, the world has many weird things and strong individuals. You must never let down your guard."

As an Immemorial Demon, the Taotie was one of the four ill omens. Its innate ability to swallow anything and everything is very powerful. Although Tuntun was still only at the peak of a demonic commander, without forming a demon soul and promoting to a demonic lord, she had infused the flesh of the Gengjin Tiger Tribe with the Grand Sun Primordial Fire. Adding this to its natural abhijna, it was definite to claim that she was the top-notch demonic commander.

A normal demonic lord might not even be its worthy opponent, which was a prime opportunity for Xiao Yan and his group to practice their skills.

Lin Feng grinned widely, "Rascals, do not underestimate your enemies or you will suffer."

Tuntun's first target was the medicine farm. Yang Qing, who was

responsible for maintaining the medicine farm, was the first to meet Tuntun. His cultivation was only in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Stage and thus he did not dare to underestimate Tuntun. He directly released the Grand Moon Primordial Water, which he could control.

Who knew that the Tuntun's eyes would brighten and she gave up the medicine farm, salivating while looking at Yang Qing. "I was not deceived. The Grand Moon Primordial Water really existed!"

The small Taotie did not stand on ceremony. Opening its small mouth, it instantly swallowed Yang Qing's Grand Moon Primordial Water into its stomach as if it was an endless pit.

Yang Qing was shocked and quickly kept his Grand Moon Primordial Water. He looked at Tuntun with shock and suspicion.

"So little?" Tuntun was displeased until she groaned loudly. She flew in front of Yang Qing and fiercely said, "Is there more? If there is, hand it over!"

Yang Qing looked at Tuntun with a weird expression on his face and accurately found a loophole in the words of Tuntun.

He carefully replied, "There is no more remaining. That was everything I had just now."

Tuntun was unhappy and shouted, "Why was it so little, it was

only enough for rinsing my mouth."

Yang Qing wiped off his cold sweat, smiling awkwardly, "Please forgive my ungracious hosting."

"Eh, it was actually a pure blood Taotie." A huge figure appeared in the mountain valley and reformed into a human form. It was the Black Dragon Jieyu He sized up Tuntun with a stunned gaze, "My Lord had actually come up with a Taotie as a spiritual pet."

Tuntun was enraged when she heard that, "Who is his spiritual pet? If you do not know, do not spout nonsense. Otherwise, be careful that I will hit you!"

Jieyu held his lips, "A wild personality. Seems like it was brought back not long ago. As an elder, let me teach you some things. You can throw a tantrum, but you must be aware of the time and location. My Lord has clearly stated that he wants you to be brought back, so you better listen to me obediently and follow me back."

Jieyu strategized perfectly, "My Lord only said that only two sect guardians are not allowed to be involved, but he did not restrict me from interfering. If I successfully bring back this Taotie, I guess the leader will treat me well?"

"Mm, but I may lose the face of the disciples of my lord. I must think of a method, which is the most comprehensive?"

Jieyu was thinking excitedly, while Tuntun was furious until her eyebrows became crossed.

She looked at Jieyu and laughed, "I have eaten dragon meat before, but too bad it was not a Bastille Black Dragon meat. I hope that you will taste better!"

As it was saying, Tuntun suddenly opened her mouth. As if there was a black hole, her mouth emitted a strong suction power.

As she opened her small mouth, its size was infinite. She could engulf the entire heaven and earth. She wanted to swallow Jieyu in one mouth.

Since surrendering to Lin Feng, Jieyu had been restraining his own unhappiness. He did not dare to react in front of Lin Feng or take it out Lin Feng's immediate disciples. Now that Tuntun had made her move, it was what he wanted.

The Bastille Black Dragon also laughed creepily, "Others may fear you, but as a Bastille Black Dragon I am unafraid!"

Saying this, Jieyu started to shake uncontrollably and a huge volume of internal power burst forth. His figure moved away instantaneously and dodged the intense suction power of Tuntun's Gifted Engulfing Theurgy. On the other hand, he had even managed to get close to Tuntun and struck with a deadly fist.

The Taotie's innate engulfing abilities was obvious in its power

to restrict spells. It was the best in engulfing away any type of mana and spiritual energy.

The Bastille Black Dragon clan fare poorly at the diversification of spells and specialized in the flesh and soul. Jieyu did not boast when he claimed to be fearless towards the Taotie.

Tuntun saw that her Gifted Engulfing Theurgy was unable to overcome its enemy and emerge victoriously, but she was not frantic. She laughed, "I am not a normal Taotie."

Her entire body shone with a golden radiance and clashed strongly with the fist of Jieyu. Although she retreated, she did not suffer greatly.

Tuntun smiled like a flower, "Using the Gengjin Tiger King's body to reform my flesh has definitely increased the strength of my body by a notch. Even as I clash with this fellow, it was not to say that I could not retaliate."

Jieyu engaged in a close fight with Tuntun, but he was unable to defeat Tuntun, which made him the disadvantaged one.

Although he was unafraid of Tuntun's engulfing abilities, Tuntun's entire body suddenly burnt brightly with the Grand Sun Primordial Fire, which could threaten him.

Fortunately, Jieyu had been cultivating at Mount Yujing for quite some time. Although he did not form the demon soul and advanced

to a demon lord, he had still obtained some rewards from it.

A layer of black scales suddenly appeared on his entire body. The scales were flashing with dense incantations.

This layer of black scales managed to block off the Grand Sun Primordial Fire in a short period of time.

Lin Feng's attention never left Tuntun. Even as Jieyu attacked, he did not stop him. At this moment, Lin Feng's eyes brightened as he saw Jieyu used this Refined Mana Black Scales.

"The Bastille Black Dragons possess tough flesh and their ability to defend themselves from the attack of various matters has been outstanding throughout. This Refined Mana Black Scales seemed to raise the mana defensive levels. Not bad, it was really not bad."

Lin Feng grinned and stared at Jieyu, "Very good, in this way, the initial plan will really be plausible."

Jieyu seemed to feel something and his entire body went cold.

"Not good, why do I have an ominous feeling? It seems like something bad is about to happen." Jieyu shook his head hardly, trying to discard the bad thoughts and focus on the fight with Tuntun.

"Let us see whether the power of my flesh will take you down first, or your Grand Sun Primordial Fire will break through my

Refined Mana Black Scales first!"

Tuntun can tell that although the Grand Sun Primordial Fire can break through the Refined Mana Black Scales, it would still need some time. She laughed, "You came knocking on my door first and brought this upon yourself."

The small Taotie ferociously opened its mouth and the Engulfing Theurgy was once again activated. This time, it was used to engulf the demonic powers Jieyu used to sustain the Refined Mana Black Scales.

Jieyu was in a daze and simultaneously wanted to give himself two tight slaps. He had been trying to prevent Tuntun from engulfing his mana, but Tuntun still managed to do it.

"My Lord, why was the Grand Sun Primordial Fire given to this crazy animal?" Jieyu was almost in tears, "I have been loyal, but I have never received something so good!"

As a member of the Dragon clan where the demonic clan pyramid exists, Jieyu should have many worthy opponents in the same realm. This was even more so especially since he did not cultivate spells but specialized in the physical martial prowess, which was an opponent the Taoties did not fancy.

Besides its own Gifted Engulfing Theurgy, the unstoppable Tuntun also possessed the remnant soul of the Gengjin Tiger King and the Grand Sun Primordial Fire. Under this three-pronged attack, it was able to easily defeat the Dragon.

At this time, Wang Lin also rode the Feilian into the medicine valley. Seeing the two demons fighting in space, he creased his brows, "This Taotie is not easy to deal with."

The pressure that Tuntun brought was bigger and bigger. After Jieyu cursed under his breath, he had no choice but to escape faraway.

Tuntun was unable to keep him there if he was determined to escape, which made Tuntun dispirited, "Irksome, now I have no dragon meat to eat."

Tuntun scanned its surroundings and landed on the Feilian that Wang Lin was sitting on. Its eyes brightened, "Although it is just the level of a demonic general and its bloodline is complicated, I think the meat will still taste decently."

Feilian noticed the look on Tuntun and started to shiver.

Wang Lin's brows creased even more. Looking at the hungry expression on Tuntun, he had no intention of starting a conversation. He directly extended his arm and pointed his finger.

After witnessing the battle between Tuntun and Jieyu, Wang Lin recognized the frightening powers of this demon. He entered the Destructive Stage of the River of Styx at the first moment. The Finger of Destruction of the Celestial Finger of Styx was unleashed and a space of black destructive gas, which began to mask Tuntun.

Tuntun creased her brows and immediately opened her mouth to unleash her engulfing abilities. She swallowed the mana of Wang Lin which was full of destructive power.

Wang Lin was in shock.

Tuntun shut her mouth and expressed a disgusted look. With a retching action, she claimed, "It is disgusting. I feel sick eating it."

Lin Feng, who was in space, witnessed this scene and was speechless, "It only felt disgusted and sick...."

Even with Lin Feng's current cultivation, he dared not use his mouth to swallow Wang Lin's destructive powers. It was almost as if the Destruction of Heaven and Earth was carried out in his body.

Maybe after he separated his soul from his body, he might give it a try.

Lin Feng slightly shook his head, "At the end, Lin's cultivation is still very low. If he was in the Aurous Core Stage like Xiao Yan, Zhu Yi, and the rest, his destructive powers would be inedible even to Tuntun."

Wang Lin quickly regained his awareness and screamed, "Fifth Junior!"

Yang Qing responded with a sound and connected his palms. A huge volume of Grand Moon Primordial Water emerged out and had even exceeded the limit that he could control.

Wang Lin also used both of his hands to conjure out a spell and recited the Road to River Styx mantra. He laid a black-yellow path in space.

What was different from normal was that the Road to River Styx had changed. The middle of it caved in while the sides were erected at a higher level as if it was a river path.

Yang Qing's Grand Moon Primordial Water landed on this river path.

Chapter 232: Surrounding And Catching The Small Taotie

Yang Qing's Grand Moon Primordial Water landed into the river path that Wang Lin had reformed from the Road to River Styx, forming a jade-green long river.

The power concepts of Water and Earth blended perfectly to form a brand-new fusion.

Whatever that happened in the past could never be retrieved anymore, leaving immeasurable sorrow.

The Grand Moon Unholy Long River was a new spell formed!

Wang Lin could also move the River Styx Primordial Water within the Pearl of Styx to complete a similar spell, but he was willing to support Yang Qing now, focusing on harnessing the power of the Road to River Styx. Without being distracted, the power of the Road to River Styx was unleashed to its greatest potential.

And Yang Qing did not let Wang Lin down, as he guided his own Grand Moon Primordial Water.

Normally, Yang Qing would consistently approach Wang Lin for help regarding the mantras and Wang Lin was never selfish, always thoroughly guiding him. Through this process, a spell like the Grand Moon Unholy Long River was created as the 9-pointer

and 10-pointer Intelligence individuals congregated together.

Although this was the first time that they were practically applying their skills in battle, their chemistry while fighting against the enemy was perfect.

The Grand Moon Unholy Long River was like the reverse of the Vast Heaven River. It surged vigorously towards Tuntun.

As Tuntun saw this, her small face was instantly wrinkled into the shape of a bun. "You obviously have so much, but you lied to me that you did not have any more just now. You are such a dishonest person."

She was not a little scared and directly opened her big mouth. The Gifted Engulfing Theurgy was exhibited and it engulfed the Grand Moon Unholy Long River.

Yang Qing was a little frantic when he witnessed this scene. Wang Lin stole a glance at him, "Remain composed and develop some guts."

"Yes." Yang Qing breathed in deeply and calmed his nerves. He managed to get his state of mind together to control the spell.

The Grand Moon Unholy Long River did a U-turn in Tuntun's mouth and flew out of it.

Tuntun was stunned and shouted, "Do not run!" The suction

power in her mouth became stronger. But this time around, Yang Qing steadied his mind and meticulously controlled the Grand Moon Unholy Long River, causing it to spin nonstop. It contended with the Gifted Engulfing Theurgy of Tuntun.

Wang Lin slightly nodded his head and stared at Tuntun's gaze. In the silence, there was. As his mind wavered, a pearl emitting a light golden hue suddenly floated in mid-space. It was the Pearl of Styx that Wang Lin always carried around with him.

After Wang Lin established his foundation, he could finally use some of the powers of this pearl.

Under the control of Wang Lin, the Pearl of Styx suddenly released the sound of flowing water.

Dark yellow River Styx Primordial Water began to surge out of it.

As Tuntun saw the River Styx Primordial Water, her face revealed a disgusted expression. "The River Styx Primordial Water tastes disgusting. Annoying."

She did not want to engulf the River Styx Primordial Water, thus when she saw the light yellow Primordial Water approaching it, she released the Grand Sun Primordial Fire to resist the Grand Moon Primordial Water.

When the shining Grand Sun Primordial Fire went up against the dim River Styx Primordial Water, there was an intense battle

between both parties.

Tuntun's cultivation was of a higher level than Wang Lin, but Wang Lin's River Styx Primordial Water had the backing of the Pearl of Styx. Both parties were unable to gain an edge over the other.

"This pearl is good stuff, how does it taste like?"

As she said it, Tuntun opened her small mouth and a strong suction power rushed towards the Pearl of Styx.

Wang Lin's face changed color and he tried to recover the Pearl of Styx. But he realized that the Pearl of Styx had been stuck in place by Tuntun's Gifted Engulfing Theurgy and he was unable to recover it back.

"Let go of it!" Wang Lin's face turned black. He pointed his Finger of Destruction at Tuntun but was unable to stop Tuntun from releasing his Gifted Engulfing Theurgy. The destructive powers of the Finger of Destruction were quickly engulfed by Tuntun.

Just as Wang Lin was frantic, a bright light flashed in space. A strong force of coercion fell on Tuntun's head, causing her to feel pressured.

Two flaming wings – one golden and one blue – converged, signaling Xiao Yan's arrival at the scene. Staring at Tuntun, he laughed creepily, "Trying to swallow the treasure of my junior.

What about my thing, do you want it?"

As Xiao Yan whistled, the two wings that were made of the Grand Sun Primordial Fire and the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire were converted into two sides of huge flames, surrounding Tuntun.

Xiao Yan, who had already formed the golden elixir, brought upon a much larger pressure to Tuntun than both Wang Lin and Yang Qing, who were in the Foundation Establishment Stage.

Facing him, Tuntun had to abandon the delicacy that she was about to enjoy and released the Pearl of Styx to retaliate against the two Primordial Fires.

The small Taotie used the Grand Sun Primordial Fire against itself and managed to resist Xiao Yan's Grand Sun Primordial Fire. It then used the Gifted Engulfing Theurgy to aim at the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire.

After engulfing some of the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire, Tuntun instantly shouted, "So hot, the taste is too strong."

That tone was not of fear, but she was like a tourist trying to swallow hot food and burnt her tongue. But she still ate until she was satisfied.

Xiao Yan wrinkled his brows, "I shall let you eat!"

As he said that, he retrieved the Nefarious Almighty Sword. But his mind wavered and he developed a new idea. "Maybe I can try it."

As he changed his mind, Xiao Yan's two Primordial Fires underwent a change. They were no longer separated clearly.

The newly changed Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire and the Grand Sun Primordial Fire were combined at their tips above Xiao Yan's forehead.

The combination of both Primordial Fires was not smooth. Both Primordial Fires were challenging for the title of the best spiritual fire on earth. They were only able to maintain a peaceful existence together due to Xiao Yan's intentional control.

However, Xiao Yan's desire to combine them together led to an intense collision, causing a chaotic and violent mana oscillation, which radiated in all directions continuously.

Even the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree at the top of Mount Yujing was affected, causing the leaves to shake slightly, due to this aura of destructive power.

Xiao Yan's face revealed a laughing intent and within it was a hint of craze. Both of his eyes were initially black, but at this moment, one of his eyes was shining with a golden color and an evil purplish-blue color appeared in the other eye.

Both Wang Lin and Yang Qing subconsciously retreated, trying to keep their distance from Xiao Yan.

Tuntun swallowed her saliva and her body also inched backward slowly.

As the surrounding audience watched fearfully, Xiao Yan's Primordial Fire managed to gradually combine with greater stability.

But it was also due to this stability that revealed a more frightening aura.

Xiao Yan's eyes emitted a weird light. His three-year battle with Murong Yanran was imminent, which led his mind to enter a state of excitement and stress. He was dying to do something to vent his feelings.

Right now, the frightening power unleashed by the combination of the two Primordial Fires made him feel better.

As Lin Feng saw this scene, he slightly nodded his head. "It cannot be wrong anymore. Being the King of Fires is the destiny of Xiao Yan."

Although Xiao Yan's experiment was not fully successful, Lin Feng could tell with his level of cultivation and foresight that if Xiao Yan's abhijna was fully completed and be controlled naturally, a normal cultivator in the early stage of the Nascent

Soul Stage would not be able to stop him.

Crossing an entire realm to kill an enemy could be considered to be a sign of dominance.

But Lin Feng would not let Xiao Yan do this on Mount Yujing. The current Xiao Yan still could not perfectly control the combination of the two Primordial fires. If there was something not dealt with carefully, this could backfire on Xiao Yan himself.

"Xiao Yan, your spell still has room for improvement. Do not unleash it on Mount Yujing and scare it."

Lin Feng used his mana to convey the message to Xiao Yan. Upon hearing Lin Feng's voice, Xiao Yan's mind became clearer and he calmed himself down.

But on the surface, Xiao Yan continued to grin suspiciously at Tuntun, "Will you be interested in eating this thing?"

Tuntun looked at the Primordial Fires that were gradually combining on top of Xiao Yan's head and licked her tongue as if she made a big decision. She shook her head, "Forget it, this thing will give me a stomachache."

"But wait for me to form a demon soul and promote to a demonic lord. When I reach that stage, I will definitely try it!" Tuntun made a funny face towards Xiao Yan before turning around and running away without a trace.

With Xiao Yan around, Wang Lin's Pearl of Styx and Yang Qing's Grand Moon Primordial Water were forsaken by Tuntun.

Lin Feng looked at the situation with interest, before he received a call by Zhu Yi, "Master, this Taotie is very strong. If all of us band together, we can kill her. But if we want to catch her alive, it will be difficult."

"If we want to catch her alive, it is actually not that difficult. You must change your perspective in whatever problems you want to solve." Lin Feng laughed while saying, "Let me tell you, everything has its own logic behind it."

"Think about how the Zhongshan Forest hunters were able to catch wild animals. Besides using arrows, swords, and spears to kill, what other methods did they use?"

After a few moments of silence, Zhu Yi replied with a hint of laughing intent in his voice, "I understand now."

Lin Feng lived in Mount Yujing and everything that happened at the mountain was under his control. He soon saw Zhu Yi returning to the Heavenly Golden Pavilion Elixir Room, picking a gourd amongst many that were hanging on the wall.

Zhu Yi poured out a pill from the gourd and pointed his finger at it. One black and one white mana were injected into it before Zhu Yi returned the pill into the gourd. Afterward, he dumped the gourd on the floor and left.

Tuntun appeared after a while. The little fellow landed from space and stared at the gourd for a few moments, before mumbling to herself, "It seems like this is an obvious trap and bait."

Lin Feng and Zhu Yi laughed as they spied on Tuntun.

Not worried that you suspect there was a trap, just worried that you did not know where the trap was.

Knowing a Taotie's natural behavior, they could not resist themselves from eating even if they knew it was a trap. On one hand, this was due to their greedy personality. On the other hand, they were confident of their engulfing abilities.

As expected, Tuntun smirked and directly engulfed the entire gourd containing the pill.

Zhu Yi laughed while shaking his head. He used his hands to conjure up a spell. As the mana was activated, Tuntun felt that something was not right.

Suddenly, a boundary similar to a sacrificial altar that was formed using both light and darkness appeared in its stomach.

Great Boundaries of the Celestial Light and Darkness Mandala!

Following Zhu Yi's state of mind, the light and darkness

boundary momentarily had the tendency to collapsed.

"I have been tricked again." Tuntun lamented. This method that Zhu Yi used to deal with it was the same as the Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds that Lin Feng used to form the Celestial Small Worlds in its stomach, following the tactics of the Destruction of Heaven and Earth.

As Lin Feng saw this scene, he shook his head and laughed uncontrollably, "Smart people do not trip over the same stone twice. But you as an eating monster can only remember to eat and not fight. Not sure whether to say you are stupid or just greedy."

Lin Feng was in the process of thinking, but Zhu Yi was already ready to complete the trapping process. Suddenly, a shadow flashed past and was one step ahead in capturing the immobile Tuntun.

It was Xiao Budian.

But he did not greet Zhu Yi and directly snatched Tuntun away, before running away without any trace.

Lin Feng looked at Xiao Budian curiously and realized that he did not plan to hand Tuntun over. Instead, he decided to kidnap Tuntun and put her away at an isolated cave in the mountains.

Chapter 233: There Is Always An Elite Amongst The Elite And A King Amongst The Eating Monsters

Tuntun swore that if she was given an opportunity to choose again, she would not be duped so easily again.

To say that was easy, but this little creature was still lacking in confidence and strength.

"It is mainly those guys who are too cunning. They are so bad! They are always tricking me!"

No matter how unhappy Tuntun was, the Great Boundaries of the Celestial Light and Darkness Mandala had already started to collapse, mimicking the power of the Destruction of Heaven and Earth.

The powers of the Destruction of Heaven and Earth that Zhu Yi, who was in the Aurous Core Stage, had created was much more overwhelming than that of Wang Lin, who was only in the Foundation Establishment Stage. Tuntun did not dare to move recklessly and used all her powers to stop the Light and Darkness boundary from spinning and stopping its destructive powers.

When Lin Feng destroyed the Celestial Small Worlds, Tuntun was unable to retaliate. At least she could repress it now, but it was just that she became paralyzed and was subjected to the actions by anyone.

Tuntun was cursing in her heart before darkness appeared before her. A young man barely older than her appeared in front of her. It was Xiao Budian.

As Xiao Budian saw Tuntun, he laughed and quickly grab Tuntun up before leaving the place.

"Faster run, faster run, if not Second Senior will catch up," Xiao Budian nagged continuously. As he grabbed Tuntun, he disappeared to an isolated cave in Mount Yujing like a whiff of smoke.

He first threw Tuntun on the ground before he inched slowly towards the cave opening. He tactically observed the situation outside the cave and realized that Zhu Yi did not catch up. He pleasantly nodded his head and pointed his finger forward, using his mana to perform a concealment spell, covering the cave opening.

Tuntun was still under the control of the Great Boundaries of the Celestial Light and Darkness Mandala, thus she was immobile and could only speak, "Why did you save me?"

"Who says I am saving you?" Xiao Budian walked over gleefully and knelt in front of Tuntun, using a weird gaze to analyze her.

Tuntun suddenly shriveled its body and shouted, "What do you want? I will only make love with the Dark Aqua Xuanming!"

"Make love?" Xiao Budian was shocked, before reacting, "Who wants to make love with you? I will not even if you beg me!"

Tuntun creased its brows, "Then why did you bring me here for?"

Xiao Budian laughed and started to use his creepy gaze to analyze Tuntun.

Tuntun suddenly felt that Xiao Budian's gaze was a little familiar, "Eh, this is familiar, where did I see it before?"

"Yes, when my clan members, including my parents, see something delicious, they have this gaze.

Yes, this is it. I also have this look when I see something delicious."

"Then him...wait!"

Tuntun suddenly opened her eyes wide and looked at Xiao Budian fearfully, stammering, "You...surely not, surely not interested in eating me?"

Xiao Budian nodded his head, "Of course I want to, if not why do I catch you for?"

He rubbed his hand excitedly, laughing, "You do not know that I

have many things that I love to eat. But my favorite is still meat. I have basically eaten all the spirits and demons in the north foot of Mount Kunlun and many of them have been tasty.""

"Such as the Spiritual Fire Sparrow, Dragon Carp, Spiritual Silver Loach, Eight Treasures Chicken." Xiao Budian listed the delicacies and licked his tongue, "My favorite is the Eight Treasures Chicken, it is the most delicious."

He turned his head around and laughed at Tuntun, "However, I have not eaten Taotie meat.

Thinking about it, your meat should be tasty?"

Tuntun's shook his head vigorously, "Not tasty, it is not tasty at all!"

She was almost in tears.

It had only been the Taoties who engulfed everything since when did anyone wanted to eat them?

Tuntun suddenly felt that her perspective of the world had been upturned and she cried out in her heart, "Father and Mother, where are the both of you? Tuntun is so pitiful. Not only can I not find delicacies, I am even being preyed on by a human now...."

Xiao Budian was undisturbed and continued to walk in circles around Tuntun, sighing, "I already said that good food can nurture

delicious meat. Taoties have eaten so much, by right the taste of the meat should be rather good."

"Furthermore, you have eaten so much delicacies, the meat quality should be filled with spiritual energy and power."

In the face of life and death, Tuntun needed to work her lazy brain to find a solution and she managed to find a good excuse.

"My meat is not tasty at all. My original Taotie flesh was destroyed. This flesh was reformed."

Seeing that Xiao Budian had already started salivating, Tuntun hurriedly said, "My body now is formed from the remnants of the Gengjin Tiger King, who I had engulfed."

Xiao Budian picked his brows, "The Gengjin Tiger King?"

Tuntun nodded his head. But who knew Xiao Budian started to laugh, "That is not bad either, I have never eaten the meat of a Gengjin Tiger before."

"But it is horrible!" Tuntun anxiously said, "Think about it, it is entirely Jinxiang essence, making it extremely tough. It will be extremely difficult to chew!"

Seeing that Xiao Budian was skeptical, Tuntun quickly added fuel to the fire, "I am a Taotie. Since we are so greedy, we do not even consciously think of eating a Gengjin Tiger, because it is too

horrible tasting already."

"In this way, it is such a pity." Xiao Budian creased his brows, looking at Tuntun unhappily, "Why are you so useless, letting others destroy your flesh."

Tuntun was on the verge of crying, thinking that she should have defended her own flesh. But protecting her flesh was purely meant to be food for him?

But seeing that Xiao Budian had decided not to eat her, Tuntun heaved a sigh of relief.

"Yes!" Xiao Budian's eyes suddenly brightened. He used his right hand to hit his left hand on his heart and let out a crisp shout and his gaze fell on Tuntun again, which made the small Taotie anxious again.

Tuntun hurriedly said, "I am really not nice to eat, I am really not nice to eat!"

Xiao Budian waved his hands, laughing, "I did not say I want to eat you."

After hearing that, Xiao Budian was relieved, asking cautiously, "Then what do you want?"

Xiao Budian laughed and was slightly embarrassed, "About that, I have something to tell you, but

you must not tell anyone."

After hearing this, she was jolted awake and slammed her chest, "Don't worry, I will not tell anyone."

Xiao Budian replied embarrassedly, "In fact, my favorite food is not meat, but it is, but it is....."

Tuntun asked curiously, "What is it?"

"I like to drink the milk of creatures." Xiao Budian stood with pointy toes and started grinding the ground continuously, revealing a hint of embarrassment and his cheeks started to blush.

Tuntun was almost laughing silently, looking at Xiao Budian who was around twenty years old, thinking, "It seems like he is not that scary. He is almost twenty but still like to drink milk, hahaha!"

But Tuntun naturally did not dare to mock Xiao Budian and could only hold his laughter, "Actually it is nothing much."

Xiao Budian laughed embarrassedly, before saying, "If I wanted meat, I could go to Mount Kunlun to hunt, but if I want to drink milk, the best is to keep a domesticated female creature on Mount Yujing."

"But there are only two demon creatures on Mount Yujing, one is

a Feilian and the other is the Bastille Black Dragon of my master. They are also males...."

Xiao Budian was focusing on what he was saying, but Tuntun face color changed when he heard it. At this point, it was unable to laughed, but could only look at Xiao Budian stunned.

"So, you understand what I mean?" Xiao Budian laughed embarrassedly, hooking his eyes on Tuntun, "Do you have milk? Squeeze some for me to drink. Talking about it, I have not drunk Taotie's milk before."

Tuntun was dizzy. Under the excited scrutiny of Xiao Budian, she started to cry.

This little fellow was crying for real.

Xiao Budian looked at Tuntun who was making a crying fuss and held his lips, "What are you crying for, if you have no milk, just tell me, I will not mock you."

"Eh, I should be the one crying okay?" Xiao Budian sighed, "I have not tasted milk for quite some time, I am so pitiful."

"So pitiful."

Lin Feng, who was at the peak of Mount Yujing, saw this scene. His lips were trembling non-stop, laughing uncontrollably, "Is this what they mean by evil guys have their own problems too?"

This was really the case where there were elites amongst elites and there was a king amongst the eating monsters.

Bringing both fellows up the mountain, Lin Feng looked at Tuntun, who was crying uncontrollably, laughing, "Still dare to recklessly run around?"

Tuntun hugged Lin Feng's pants, saying pitifully, "The mountains are dangerous, it is much safer beside you."

Lin Feng laughed, pointing at Xiao Budian, "You are a little fool."

Xiao Budian was confused, "Master, what is wrong with me?"

Xiao Budian laughed while pushing Tuntun in front of his eyes, "This little fellow has spent the last

thousand years of his life eating good food and the delicacies that it has eaten are uncountable. It is like a moving food compass, why don't you pacify it?"

"The future happiness of your stomach rests on her."

Xiao Budian's eyes brightened, "Yes." He laughed and patted Tuntun's shoulders, "Before you go

out next time, tell me where the delicacies are at. We can go

together."

Tuntun nodded his head with a miserable look, thinking, "I just hope that you do not eat too happily and then think of eating me in the end."

Lin Feng laughed and waived off the both of them. As he wavered his mind, he called for the Black Dragon Jieyu beside him.

Jieyu looked at Tuntun's back view as he left, with something weighing on his mind. He greeted Lin Feng, "My Lord, are you finding me?"

Lin Feng smiled slightly and asked, "Are you envious of that little fellow, as he has obtained many good stuff?"

Jieyu replied in panic, "I dare not, dare not..." He stole a glance at Lin Feng's expression and saw that he wore a smile on his face. He courageously said, "Just a little envious, but I am sure you have your own arrangements, my lord."

Lin Feng nodded in agreement and pressed his finger, causing a ball of light to land in front of Jieyu.

Jieyu saw this and was excited immediately. The ball of light was one-third the essence of the demon soul of the Gengjin Tiger King.

His bliss came too sudden, causing Jieyu to become dizzy.

Lin Feng looked at the happy Jieyu and started to reveal a warm smile at the edge of his lips.

Chapter 234: Don't Be Scared, It Won't Hurt

Ever since Lin Feng killed the Gengjin Tiger King and obtained the essence of his demon soul and corpse, Jieyu had been coveting it.

To him, he could supersede the peak of a demonic commander if he was given anything to eat.

As a result, he could successfully form a demon soul and promote to the level of a demon lord.

But it was a pity that Lin Feng did not fulfill his wishes even up till now.

Now that what he had coveted was finally in front of him, Jieyu was touched until he was on the verge of crying.

"It must be my performance during the battle with the Taotie that caught your attention, My Lord.

Although I did not win, you managed to recognize my hard work."

Although it was just one-third of the essence of the demon soul, Jieyu was still very happy.

Cultivating on Mount Yujing did not seem to be inferior to

Mount Baiyun of the Great Void Sect.

Over these days, his abilities had indeed grown by a lot.

He swallowed the essence of the demon soul in one mouth. Jieyu's demonic powers suddenly grew exponentially. After it grew, it suddenly shrank again.

After the shrinking of his demonic powers, Jieyu's dragon stature actually became more breathtaking.

The space above Mount Yujing resonated impressively the sound of thunder.

After swallowing one-third of the essence of the demon soul, Jieyu was able to attain a breakthrough and overcame the Thunder Tribulations, forming the demon soul.

Lin Feng looked at this scene curiously. He realized that there was still a difference in the way demons and humans overcame the Thunder Tribulations.

Regardless of whether it was him or Kang Nanhua when they overcame the Thunder Tribulations and formed their soul, they managed to resist the Thunder Tribulations through their own mana.

Holding off the Thunder Tribulations, they did not dare to let it touch their body.

Whereas for the demonic clan, their way was the reverse. They directly spat out their demonic pill, allowing the Thunder Tribulations to strike the demonic pill.

If it could sustain, the demonic pill would be converted to a demon soul, attaining the realm of a demonic lord.

If it could not sustain, then it would be dissipated into bubbles.

As compared to the human method, it was more ancient, bloody and dangerous. It consisted of a wild survival instinct and a resilient mindset.

But it was also closer to the ancient rules of Heaven and Earth. It was a natural law.

Jieyu did not expend too much energy to overcome the tribulations to form the demon soul. With his initial cultivation, he could already activate the Thunder Tribulations, just that the success rate would only be fifty percent. That was why he purposely repressed the vibration of his demonic powers to prevent the Thunder Tribulations from being activated.

Now that he had attained one-third of the essence of the demon soul, the savings of his powers were enough to successfully overcome the Thunder Tribulations.

After being struck by lightning, the black demonic pill started to

shine with a dim golden radiance, boosting the toughness of the pill, such that it could not even be moved by lightning anymore.

As the Thunder Tribulations slowly disappeared, the black demonic pill was still unharmed.

After the Thunder Tribulations had passed, Jieyu's black demonic pill released a crisp sound amongst the flashing radiance. It was as if an egg shell was cracked, revealing various cracked lines on it.

But this form of cracks did not suggest that it was broken. Rather, it revealed an aura of a new beginning.

The cracks rapidly increased until they covered the entire demonic pill. An evil aura emanated from each of the cracks.

After the demonic pill fully cracked open, an immature dragon slithered out of it, as if it was a little snake. It shook its body slightly. In between its scales, there were no fishy smell like snakes and bugs, but rather there was a fresh scent.

This fresh scent rapidly condensed to form blossoming, dark clouds. One is tempted to submit to the tiny dragon that came from within it.

Lin Feng laughed, "Very good. Now you are also one of the demonic lords in the dragon clan. It is a pity that the situation of your dragon clan is a little special, thus you cannot be called the

dragon king."

In all the demonic clans, one who formed a demon soul could be called a demonic lord. Once they successfully go through cultivation, their demon soul would not be destroyed and they would be termed Great Saints.

This was with the exception of the dragon clan. In the dragon clan, a successful cultivation would prevent the dragon soul from being destroyed and allowed one to be called a dragon king.

It seemed like they were of a lower level than the other demonic clans. But in fact, there was a saying in the demonic clans, "Always bow down when we see a dragon". Except for immemorial demons who inherited through their bloodlines, like the Taoties and Golden Crows, other demons had to bow down when they were in front of the dragon clan.

They controlled the world since immemorial and even up till today, they still had their own prestige.

Jieyu's demon soul became one with his flesh. As he opened his eyes, an aura of dominance was released.

The Bastille Black Dragon clan had one of the strongest flesh in the demonic clans, not to even say amongst the Immemorial Celestial Dragons.

After Jieyu had promoted to the realm of the demonic lord, his

flesh and blood was steaming vigorously even as he was sitting without moving, as if he wanted to tear apart time and space.

If he fought the Gengjin Tiger King now, Jieyu had full confidence that he could trounce him.

But in front of Lin Feng, Jieyu was afraid to be rude. Before the Sect-Opening ceremony, in the battle at the barren land of Shazhou, Jieyu witnessed the entire proceedings even though he did not participate, all with the deliberate arrangements by Lin Feng.

The scene where Lin Feng killed Yu Qianshan and the Cloud Elephant Grandmaster with his fingertips in a split second was etched in his mind. He did not dare to entertain any thoughts of a rebellion.

He respectfully bowed towards Lin Feng, "It was all possible due to you, my lord. I will listen to any orders, even if I have to go through heaven and hell, and follow your wishes, My Lord."

Lin Feng slightly smiled, "You do not have to go through hell for me, but I really need your help in one matter now."

Jieyu replied without hesitation, "Please instruct me, My Lord. I will carry it out without further questions!"

On the surface, he looked passionate, but he had his own schemes in mind, "This leader of the Celestial Sect is also pretty kind when

he does things. During the battle of Shazhou, he did not push me to fight against the cultivators in the Nascent Soul Stage. Even if he had something he wanted me to do, it was something I could complete. I was never placed in a difficult spot."

"Furthermore, he is quite a generous person. As long as I do my tasks well, he will treat me well."

Jieyu laid out his own schemes in his mind. Lin Feng did not probe further and only asked, "When you fought the Taotie earlier, you once used some form of defensive abhijna?"

Jieyu nodded his head and replied, "That is a gifted theurgy from my Bastille Black Dragon clan, called the Royal Bastille Curse. It uses demonic powers to form a special curse that can be incorporated on our scales, turning out scales into Refined Mana Black Scales, which can resist and destroy the powers of a large majority of spells."

He revealed a proud expression on his face, "This is the move that can only be cultivated after forming the demon soul, but after cultivating on this mountain for quite some time, I have understood a lot about the laws of the Heaven and Earth. That is why I am able to unleash everything during the peak of a demonic commander."

"Now that I have formed the demon soul and promoted to a demonic lord, using this abhijna will allow me to build a stronger resistance." Jieyu laughed, "Even if you let the small Taotie burn me with the Grand Sun Primordial Fire, I will not be scared at all."

"As one of the seven Primordial Fires on Earth, the Grand Sun Primordial Fire is very dominant. But she is only a demonic commander, thus if she wants to overcome my Refined Mana Black Scales, she will take a long time. Before she even reaches there, I will tear her apart already."

Lin Feng nodded with excitement, "What if she progresses to a demonic lord?"

Jieyu's neck shrunk and he hesitated for a moment, "I cannot tell, we will only know after we fight."

Although he was talking big, he certainly knew that if both parties were of the same level, he would face a losing battle coming up against the Grand Sun Primordial Fire, Gifted Engulfing Theurgy and Tuntun's flesh, which was not much weaker than him.

Lin Feng did not try to probe further, saying, "It is definitely a strong power, now I need your

scales to be practically put into use."

Jieyu slapped his chest with gusto, "My Lord, please feel free to instruct me, I will...wait, My Lord, did you say you need my scales to be practically put into use?"

Lin Feng nodded, "Yes."

Jieyu asked cautiously, "My Lord, may I ask, for what use exactly? Do you want me to spar with someone with a high level of mantra?"

"That is not the case." Lin Feng shook his head, as a smile appeared at the edges of his lips, "I have explained clearly previously, you do not have to read between the lines. It can be understood literally."

"I need your scales. No, it will be more accurate to say that I need you to provide some of your scales."

Jieyu started to let out cold sweat as his greatest fear was fulfilled. He instantly realized that Lin Feng wanted to directly scrape off his scales.

"My.... My.... My Lord, I...please do not...." Jieyu's was speechless.

Lin Feng grinned from ear to ear and treated Jieyu with the most kindly smile he had ever been,

"Trust me, it will be fine, come, do not be scared, it will not hurt."

In the next moment, a helpless groan resonated around Mount Yujing.

Both Xiao Budian and Tuntun heard the crying howl and they could not resist withdrawing their necks, "Who is that shouting so fearfully, is he being deep-fried alive?"

Seeing the Refined Mana Black Scales that he had obtained, he tried to figure out the way and concept of the curse, thinking to himself, "This so-called Royal Bastille Curse puts the Bastille as the secondary point. The main point laid in the 'Curse', seemingly like a different version of some secret abhijna of the dragon clan. If I have the time, I shall research a bit."

"The amount of Refined Black Mana Scales in your hands should be enough?" Lin Feng nodded his head with satisfaction, "It is okay if there is not enough, I can obtain it again when the time comes."

Jieyu was crying and shivering from head to toe as if he was beaten up by a dozen men. Initially, he was glad that the torture for him was over, but after listening to Lin Feng's words, his eyes rolled up and fainted.

After Lin Feng dismissed Jieyu, he flew up to a branch of the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree and sat down. Holding up the Refined Mana Black Scales, he whipped out the dragon tendons that he had obtained at a lucky draw. He also took out the Zhuyan Demon Eye that Yan Mingyue gave to him.

The dragon tendon and Refined Mana Black Scales achieved a chemistry. When they met each other, they let out a dragon chant and there was even the condensation of a Mighty Auspicious Cloud special only to the Immemorial Celestial Dragons.

As the Mighty Auspicious Cloud encountered the Zhuyan Demon Eye, the Zhuyan Demon Eye let out a sound. The flame within the transparent ball structure was burning peacefully initially, but it suddenly started to burn vigorously. It was as if a sleeping Immemorial Celestial Dragon was jolted awake and opened its eyes.

That majestic yet frightening power was stronger than Pang Jie's Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra, although it was only slightly weaker than that of the Six Appearances Sword.

Lin Feng nodded in approval, "It is not just an embryo of a magic treasure, its quality was pretty top-notch. Once it becomes a magic treasure, its power will be the best."

"It's a pity that I have not attained the Immortal Soul, thus I am unable to let you display your prowess." Lin Feng laughed, "But, a wealthy man has his way of living, so does a poor man."

After he finished speaking, Lin Feng pointed his finger at the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree, causing a branch along with a few leaves to break off.

A huge branch shrunk continuously in the process of falling, until it became the size of an average tree branch, landing on Lin Feng's hand.

Chapter 235: Lin Feng Forming A Magic Treasure

In his right hand, Lin Feng held the branch of the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree. He used one of his fingers on his left hand to lift the branch, causing a few leaves to drop out and float in mid-space.

"Form!" Lin Feng called out softly, causing the leafless branch of the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree to be thrown into mid-space. After that, the dragon tendon also flew up together, dividing into a few components and wrapping around the branch.

A rainbow radiance flashed on the surface of the branch and plated a layer of light on the dragon tendon. The dragon tendon seemed to have become alive, as it intertwined around itself, forming a framed network.

Lin Feng pointed at the Refined Mana Black Scales, "Rise!"

The Refined Mana Black Scales, which was flashing with a great number of curses, also flew into space. Under the control of Lin Feng's belief, the scales adhered to the frames created by the dragon tendon.

The dragon tendon and the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree flashed with the same rainbow light. After encountering the Refined Mana Black Scales, it penetrated the scales and formed a singular matter.

Very soon, the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree became the spine,

while the Refined Mana Black Scales and dragon tendon weaved a flashing rainbow, armored dragon scales.

In between the flashing lights, the armor formed seamlessly. The mighty dragon stature diffused across, leaving one in awe.

It was just that there was a hole in the chest area of the armor.

Lin Feng was silent and lifted the Zhuyan Demon Eye, softly shouting, "Combine!" Under the control of his mana, the Zhuyan Demon Eye also flew into mid-space, nicely inserting itself into the chest area of the armor.

After the Zhuyan Demon Eye and the armor combined to form a complete body, there was a resounding dragon chant suddenly, piercing through the endless space.

The branches and leaves near the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree all began to vibrate.

Everyone else on Mount Yujing were alarmed and twisted their heads to look into the sky. They saw that a faint red cloud was spinning under the shade of the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree, emitting a frightening aura that made one disturbed.

Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao had already undergone the Soul Formation, but as they faced the red cloud, they were also frightened.

"My Lord...he is forming the magic treasure!" Kang Nanhua reacted quickly. Miao Shihao also exited the cave and walked towards the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree, standing shoulder to shoulder with Kang Nanhua. "For something to cause the both of us to feel frightened, it is definitely a magic treasure."

Jieyu also looked at the red cloud in a daze, "That is...that is the Mighty Auspicious Cloud from my dragon clan! And it is also the Flaming Dragon clan, yes, Yan Mingyan had delivered a Zhuyan Demon Eye to the Lord. He must be forming the magic treasure."

"That means...he wanted my scales, so as to form the magic treasure?" Jieyu felt a little better, "A magic treasure is such a miraculous thing. It was worth it to have my scales taken for this purpose."

"If my Lord is able to form it successfully, I will also have some credit."

Xiao Yan and his bunch noticed the movement at the peak. It was hard not to notice. The Nascent Soul Stage magic item on their bodies once again revealed a chilling situation, similar to the coincidental meeting with the Six Appearances Sword at the Sect-Opening ceremony.

That was a form of Nascent Soul Stage magic item. When it encountered an Immortal Soul Stage magic treasure, it would naturally be repressed.

Xiao Yan's brows converged and he twisted his head to look at

Zhu Yi, "Although I am not sure whether it is this piece of magic treasure, but according to Master's rules, he would reward a magic treasure to the one who promotes fastest to the Nascent Soul Stage. For the rest, they will have to wait for the good stuff."

"Second Junior, are you interested to compete to see who gets this magic treasure eventually?"

Zhu Yi laughed slightly, "It is not always the smallest junior that gets the lead."

On one hand, his words expressed his confidence. On another hand, his words were used to put down Xiao Yan.

Previously the one who first formed the elixir and obtained the Nascent Soul Stage magic item was also not you, what was the point of being so excited?

Xiao Yan could not grasp his meaning, only laughing after hearing, "Then let us see what will happen."

Regarding the noise created, Lin Feng had expected it earlier. However, he was not too concerned about it. Seeing the armor in front of him, the Zhuyan Demon Eye was like a huge dragon eye smack in the middle of the chest area of the armor, staring at him.

Lin Feng laughed and pointed his finger. The few pieces of leaves that had detached from the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree flew up together and landed on the Zhuyan Demon Eye, covering it.

These leaves combined with the armor and its shape experienced a change, seemingly becoming a helmet that was metallically-enriched.

The rainbow light of the leaves of the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree and the armor blended into a single body. The Zhuyan Demon Eye was not left out even though the leaves were covering it, as its inner power was still unleashed to its fullest potential.

At this point, the entire armor was successfully formed. An unlimited amount of spiritual and demonic aura combined and released an aura of life.

Lin Feng could clearly feel the consciousness of a new life that was ready to be birthed.

"Now is not the time." Lin Feng shook his head regretfully. He lifted his hand and pointed in the middle of the chest area of the armor, where the Zhuyan Demon Eye laid.

The aura of life was not destroyed by Lin Feng, but the knowledge and consciousness was repressed back into the inner part of the Zhuyan Demon Eye by Lin Feng.

Lin Feng had a slight movement in his state of mind and the Avatar of Ares came beside him. The

armor made a resounding sound and wore itself over the body of

the Avatar of Ares.

The size of the armor adjusted to fit the figure of the Avatar of Ares. The width and length was perfect, without a single flaw.

After the armor and the Avatar of Ares were fully connected, there was a mighty dragon chant that was suddenly released. A bright red flame shone and flashed the rainbow light, causing the Avatar of Ares to be entirely packaged.

The flame caused the skull of the Avatar of Ares to be masked, but not harming it. Rather, it gradually formed a durable material, like a helmet covering the face of the Avatar of Ares.

The look of the helmet resembled that of a dragon head. Wearing the helmet allowed the Avatar of Ares to reform into a giant with a dragon head and a human body.

The leaves on the armor opened and closed as if the scales on a dragon body was vibrating.

Many fire pythons and flaming dragons were galloping and roaring. A raging fire surrounded the Avatar of Ares. The figure of an Immemorial Celestial Dragon loomed behind him in space. As the scales flickered, the earth shattered.

The Immortal Soul magic treasure, Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor!

Experiencing the frightening power fluctuation in front of him, Lin Feng revealed a satisfied smile.

Strictly speaking, the armor in front of him was not a real magic treasure. The Zhuyan Demon Eye was also not truly cultivated. This was a device that was formed from many treasures, reaching the power level of a magic treasure.

Although it was formed and not truly cultivated, the power, way, and concept had reached the level of a magic treasure, even forming its own magic treasure spirit.

But in that way, it birthed a Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor that had its own mindset, which might not submit to Lin Feng. Even if it did submit, it would harbor other thoughts. During key moments, it would be a blessing if it did not interfere with matters.

That was why Lin Feng decisively repressed the birth of the magic treasure spirit and allowed the armor and the Avatar of Ares to infuse into a single body.

From a certain perspective, the Avatar of Ares became a part of this piece of magic treasure.

Otherwise, it could be said that it was a component that formed the magic treasure.

Lin Feng converted the consciousness of the Avatar of Ars into a magic treasure spirit, infusing it with the armor.

It was also actually a part of Lin Feng's consciousness, which was reposed into this piece of Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor.

In this way, it ensured Lin Feng's full control over this piece of constructed magic treasure. The bad point was that if the magic treasure came into any form of breakdown, Lin Feng would be implicated too.

The toughness of the flesh of the Avatar of Ares was basically on par with the peak level of a cultivator in the Nascent Soul Stage. Although the mantra was slightly worst, it would not be exaggerated to say that the overall battling power was even stronger than Lin Feng's original self.

At this point, after infusing with the Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor, the power had increased another level and it was almost equivalent to that of a senior cultivator in the Nascent Soul Stage, who were one of the most powerful in terms of their powers.

Lin Feng thought to himself, "These good stuffs in front of me are so powerful even though they were artificially combined. Wait till I promote to an Immortal Soul and fully infuse them into a single body, creating a true magic treasure. The power would be earth-shattering."

As his mind wavered, the Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor was converted into a ball of flame and drilled into the brows of Lin Feng, disappearing soon after.

Lin Feng disembarked from the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree. Both Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao came to welcome him. Kang Nanhua grabbed his fist and laughed, "Congratulations to my Lord for successfully forming a magic treasure."

Miao Shihao covered his mouth and laughed too, "Knowing My Lord's habit, guess who will eventually attain this magic treasure?"

"It may not be this magic treasure." Lin Feng slightly laughed and boasted without thinking,

"When I give my disciples treasures, I allocate based on their practical need for it."

"But, I am actually not considering changing my habit. Out of those guys, the first to form their soul will receive a magic treasure from me."

Miao Shihao laughed, "God knows who is the lucky one? I have higher expectations for Xiao Yan. He is mighty, dominant, full of guts and strives for improvements. Therefore, he is a good man that I think highly of."

Lin Feng grinned, thinking that if Xiao Yan was to overhead that, he would be scared until his cultivation regressed to the Foundation Establishment Stage.

He twisted his head and looked at Kang Nanhua, laughing, "What about you?"

Kang Nanhua slightly smiled, "My Lord, are you trying to be the banker? In that case, let me place my bet. I bet that your second disciple, Zhu Yi, will be the first to form his soul."

Lin Feng's eyes flashed, "Oh, what is the reason?"

"Tianhao is about to become an adult and his mind is gradually becoming mature. His abilities will take a huge leap toward a rapid development. Initially, he had the most hope." Kang Nanhua explained. "But his aurous core is a little special. There were naturally nine holes, as if there were nine cave openings, spitting and swallowing the Heaven and Earth. His powers were the most brilliant out of all your disciples."

"But after he had promoted to the Aurous Core Stage, he had to ensure that his aurous core was flawless. This process contained more obstacles for him than the rest. If there was no special opportunity, he had to expend a lot of effort and time on this level."

Miao Shihao, who was standing at a corner, also nodded his head, "This is the correct rationale."

Kang Nanhua followed by saying, "Among all your disciples, Xiao Yan's control of the two Primordial Fires is one of the best. His previous combination of the two Primordial Fires produced a frightening power that left me and Shihao fearful."

"But in terms of character-wise, he is overly resolute, which

makes him easy to fold. If he is always this way, I am afraid that he may be taken advantage of, although it may not be till the extent of harming his vitality. But it will still inevitably delay his cultivation time."

Kang Nanhua concluded, "And for your second disciple Zhu Yi, he may look moderate, but he is actually very calm and disciplined. Every step he takes, he will plan properly. His every step is very stable and he is the least likely to get into any accidents. Therefore, I think highly of him."

Lin Feng slightly smiled. Kang Nanhua's conclusion was inevitably influenced by some traces of his own character.

As for Miao Shihao, it was purely for his own entertainment.

"My Lord, what about you, who do you value the most?" Miao Shihao asked while laughing.

Chapter 236: Are You Ready?

"My Lord, who do you think is the best?"

After hearing Miao Shihao's question, Lin Feng grinned, "I shall not hide it from the both of you. This question is not suitable to be answered at this point in time. I also hope that they will give me a surprise."

Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao looked at each other, as Miao Shihao laughed secretly, "My Lord, you do not know too?"

"Because there is a huge change coming." Lin Feng answered, "This change is Wang Lin."

Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao revealed a thoughtful expression.

They might not possess a Talent Analysis Device like Lin Feng, which could accurately tell the four statistics of the potential of Lin Feng's disciples, but with their current cultivation and time spent with Xiao Yan, they could tell Wang Lin was different from the rest.

Lin Feng continued, "The suspense lies in when Wang Lin can form the elixir."

"Let us say that if Wang Lin can form the elixir before the rest has promoted to the Aurous Core Stage, then I think Wang Lin has the highest potential to form his soul." Lin Feng drew a light circle in

space. "If Zhu Yi promotes to the Aurous Core Stage before Wang Lin forms the elixir, then I agree with Nanhua's point that Zhu Yi may be the fastest to form his soul."

The figure of the light circle floated about, revealing an image from the medicine valley. There were two human figures in it, both Wang Lin and Yang Qing.

Yang Qing picked up a spiritual herb that Tuntun had crushed and sighed, revealing a sorrowful expression.

In front of Tuntun, he literally had no retaliatory powers. He needed to use all the Grand Moon Primordial Water within him to protect himself, much less talked about fighting Tuntun.

But the unleashing of the entire Grand Moon Primordial Water was not something that he could control. If the Primordial Water escapes, the result would similarly be unpredictable.

Wang Lin looked at Yang Qing, saying, "Understanding one's own shortcomings should only lead to greater efforts at cultivating. Whining about it will not help and develops an attitude of reliance on others, which will not help too."

Yang Qing cautiously said, "I feel that no matter how hard I try, I will still be unable to catch up with everyone, including our smallest Junior. Haiz, when he calls me Senior, I will get frantic and cannot wait to find a hole to hide myself in."

Wang Lin got up and climbed onto the Feilian and flew far away. His voice resonated in space, "If you have this kind of mentality, you will never be able to catch up."

Yang Qing looked at the medicine farm in front of him and was stunned. After a while, he slapped his cheek hard, "Get your spirits up. The enemy who ruined the Cloud Water Cave are more savage than that Taotie. If I am like that, how can I avenge the rest?"

"Master accepted me as a disciple, but if I remain so downbeat, am I not letting him down? No, I cannot make him lose his face."

Lin Feng and two others looked at the feed in the light circle, which made Miao Shihao laughed, "Although he is a little soft in his personality, he knows what is good for him. It is just that in the future..."

On the other hand, Kang Nanhua creased his brows and twisted his head to look at Lin Feng, "My Lord, given Yang Qing's personality, he is a little similar to Hongyan. But as comrade Miao has said, his personality is too gentle. In the long run, this may not be ideal."

Kang Nanhua's words seem to be a little illogical. He categorized both Yang Qing and Yue Hongyan together, even though Yang Qing was more gentle and humble, while Yue Hongyan was more tough and generous.

But Lin Feng understood his words instantaneously and nodded his head in deep thought.

Kang Nanhua did not refer to the way both Yang Qing and Yue Hongyan's did things when he said that they were similar. He was saying that they both lacked initiative.

Their hard work, determination, and drive were all for the sake of others.

Yang Qing's perseverance, ever since he fought the Taotie, was different from that of Wang Lin. Wang Lin was unwavering as his motive was to become stronger.

Whereas for Yang Qing, he did all that not to let Lin Feng down. To put it more accurately, as Lin Feng's disciple, he did not want others to say that he threw Lin Feng's face and did not want others to point fingers claiming that Lin Feng accepted disciples recklessly.

He wanted to get stronger so as to avenge his Cloud Water Cave Sect and repay Lin Feng for saving him.

But Yang Qing's main purpose in making himself stronger was not convincing enough.

Yue Hongyan appeared fearless, but in terms of the cultivation ideals, she was similar to Yang Qing. Yue Hongyan was urgent to become stronger, because she inherited the remains of her deceased senior, Yue Hongfeng, due to the rivalry between the Arctic State and the Great Zhou Empire.

It was Yue Hongfeng's beliefs that always led her forward. After the Covenant of Liefeng was destroyed by Zhang Lie, Yue Hongyan's forward-looking outlook became a search for revenge against Zhang Lie.

Lin Feng and Kang Nanhua were certain that if the Great Zhou Empire and Zhang Lie disappeared overnight, then Yue Hongyan would lose her purpose and not know what to do in the future.

It was just that Yue Hongyan was tough and she had a strong will. Even if she lost her goal, she would just follow her habits and continue moving forward.

Whereas for Yang Qing, after losing his motivation from the outside world, he might entirely lose his motivation for the future. He lacked a thirst for personal improvement, thus maybe if he returned to the fields in the wild and became a free person, he might feel more at home.

Lin Feng said, "Yang Qing's potential is unlimited."

That was the truth, but it was not convenient for him to reveal to Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao in detail.

Since he accepted Yang Qing as his disciple from the first day, Lin Feng was already very curious.

It was due to Yang Qing's Innate Ability, which was 9 points.

How did that come about?

Xiao Bu Dian's Innate Ability was 10 points. It was his natural foundation, the Natural Supreme Spiritual Altar.

Xiao Zhen Er's Innate Ability was 9 points, but it could be told that she was special. Her Innate Ability was so high, such that it could be possible that she had inherited some of it through her blood line.

Yang Qing's Innate Ability was also 9 points. As of now, he was the one with the highest value among those who were analyzed by Lin Feng, only below Xiao Bu Dian.

What did he have that warranted such a high Innate Ability?

After he came under Lin Feng, Lin Feng also investigated it secretly, but he did not have any findings. This made Lin Feng curious.

Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihua misunderstood Lin Feng. Miao Shihao laughed, "If Yang Qing's determination was a little stronger, his future could be very bright."

Lin Feng was expressionless, but he was laughing bitterly internally.

The system showed that Yang Qing's determination was only 5 points. It was the statistic for his innate potential and not the

statistic for his current attributes.

In other words, the system was bent on putting Yang Qing's determination at a maximum of 5 points.

This was unless there was a huge external factor that interfered with it.

Like that brainless fool who opened his harem and wasted his fortune, Hong Ye.

If one was allowed to develop normally, the statistic given by the system was the upper limit.

To increase Yang Qing's determination, there had to be a painful change that altered his determination greatly.

Before Lin Feng's skepticism of the ability to change one's determination overnight was even mentioned, if we were to assume that such a thing was to happen, given Yang Qing's fragile determination, it was more likely to put him down and led to his emotional destruction.

The destruction of the Cloud Water Cave was an opportunity, but the continuous interference of the Aeolus Sect and Lin Feng let the opportunity slipped.

Without the Aeolus Sect and Lin Feng's interference, Yang Qing's character could have a big change and he could walk up a path of

solitude. But he could also be unable to handle such a setback, the mental breakdown and his willpower would be entirely gone.

The Aeolus Sect's pursuit of him and Lin Feng's appearance as his savior gave Yang Qing one more choice in the three crossroads of life.

Lin Feng had also often thought about it, if the Aeolus Sect and himself did not appear, which road would Yang Qing actually take?

"Although I am very excited to see you get stronger, I fear that that may incur a huge price, one that you cannot bear." Lin Feng sighed in his heart, "After all, you do not seem as opinionated as

Xiao Yan and the rest. In the face of danger, life and death cannot be predicted easily."

Lin Feng used his mind to cause a change in the light circle, reconverting it back to the figure of

Wang Lin. He saw that Wang Lin was still seated on top of the Feilian and had not returned to his cave. But he had already started cultivating as he would not let go of any second.

Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao looked at each other and nodded concurrently, "Wang Lin's Intelligence is shocking. Once he successfully forms the elixir, his reliance on his Innate Ability for his cultivation will drop significantly, while putting more focus on his Intelligence. With his determination, he will progress

significantly then."

Lin Feng laughed and waved his hand. The light circle disappeared and he descended from space, appearing in front of Xiao Yan and the rest.

Lin Feng was sneering at Tuntun when that happened, "I almost forgot, if I am not wrong, when I was first trapped in the ring, the Taotie that sucked all my mana was you, am I right?"

Tuntun twitched his mouth, "How dare you even mention it, with that little bit of mana, coupled with its poor quality, it is still unable to even fill the gaps in my teeth."

Xiao Yan mocked in anger, "Hey, you are still quite picky. Now I can let you eat as much as you want in one shot, but I am not sure if you have the guts?"

Tuntun wanted to rebut immediately, but he remembered Xiao Yan's infusion of the two Primordial Fires and its frightening powers, which made him back away. He muttered, "Hold it for me, I will eat it when I form the demon soul."

"Big senior, calm down, calm down." Xiao Bu Dian quickly blocked off Xiao Yan, who was filled with killing intent. "I am still waiting for her to bring me somewhere nice to eat."

Xiao Bu Dian followed saying after a while, "Furthermore, killing her has no point. Her meat is not delicious."

Tuntun, who was initially grateful towards Xiao Bu Dian, twitched his mouth and twisted his face,

"They are no good things!"

Lin Feng also shook his face and laugh, coming beside Tuntun. He extended his head to grab her small head and directly pushed her to bow towards Xiao Yan in a 90 degrees' angle, "I will give you a chance to say again, what should you say now?"

"A good Taotie will not fight when the odds are against it." Tuntun resisted Lin Feng, twisting her mouth, "Sorry, I was wrong in the beginning. I apologize to you now, please forgive me."

Lin Feng laughed, "What else?"

Tuntun rolled her eyes, "In the future, if you need my help, please instruct me. I will make amends for my past mistakes."

Xiao Yan recalled that Lin Feng said that Tuntun was his spiritual pet and saw that Tuntun apologized under his command, which made him feel much more appeased. Looking at Tuntun snorting, he said, "Forget it, if you do not cause any more trouble for me, I can thank Heaven already."

Tuntun made a funny face at him.

Lin Feng slapped her head and turned his head to look at Xiao Yan, suddenly asking, "Are you ready?"

The rest were unsure of what Lin Feng was referring to, but Xiao Yan understood immediately. He held his smile and seriously bow towards Lin Feng, "Greetings my Master, your disciple is ready!"

Chapter 237: Showing Up To Fulfill The Promise

"Your disciple is ready." Xiao Yan said seriously.

Lin Feng nodded his head, "Go and pack up, we are going."

Xiao Yan replied, "Master, you are going with me?"

Lin Feng laughed, "I will not interfere in your battle with Murong Yanran, but if the Sword of Radiance Sect dares to try anything funny, I will teach them what the rules are."

Although he said it nicely, it was what Lin Feng wanted to do.

"This is the legendary fight against the loser! This fun must not be missed!"

Lin Feng only felt that the Fire of Eight Trigrams was burning vigorously in his heart. When he first accepted Xiao Yan as his disciple, the day that he had been looking forward to had finally arrived, where he could just be an onlooker from the stronger party.

As for the Sword of Radiance Sect, it was not worth mentioning in front of Xiao Yan. They should just watch their back.

Xiao Yan laughed, "Just target those who went with Murong

Yanran to Wuzhou City and we will know what the Sword of Radiance Sect is up to."

"The abode of the Sword of Radiance Sect, Xingyun Peak, is it at the southeast part of the Great Qin Empire?" Xiao Bu Dian recalled how it looked and turned his head to ask Tuntun, "I remember that you mentioned a delicious demon snake meat in the southeast part of the Great Qin Empire?"

Tuntun nodded his head and licked her lips, reminiscing about it, "Blue Cloud Horn Snake, the taste is fairly good."

Xiao Bu Dian answered with a "Mm" and came before Xiao Yan, saying seriously, "Big Senior, let me follow you. If Murong Yanran and his sect dare to pull any trick, I can give you a hand."

"Get lost!" Xiao Yan replied furiously, "Just tell me directly if you want to catch demons, do not act so high and mighty around here."

Xiao Bu Dian laughed cheekily, "My main aim is to cheer you on, anything else is just a bonus."

Lin Feng shook his head while laughing and he was just looking at the crowd without worrying much. Even if Xiao Bu Dian tagged along, it would be nothing much.

Zhu Yi remained at the mountain to guide the new disciples. Wang Lin and Yang Qing were both training hard. Besides Xiao Bu Dian, Lin Feng brought Yue Hongyan along too.

Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing was different. She did not suit a style of meditation to cultivate her skills. In other words, engaging in a practical battle would be more efficient in helping her achieve a breakthrough.

Xiao Bu Dian looked at Xiao Yan and was distracted suddenly. After a while, he turned his head and looked at Lin Feng, saying, "Master, after Big Senior's tasks have been settled, I will like to find my parents."

Lin Feng nodded his head, replying, "I had kept a lookout for news of your parents, but they have not returned back to your Shi family clan. There has been no news in the past few years."

"The most probable thing is that they may have stayed in an alternate dimension, that is why news of them was cut off."

Xiao Bu Dian opened his eyes wide and looked worried, "Master...."

Lin Feng laughed slightly, "Do not be worried. You may not know something, which is that whoever possesses a cultivation in the Aurous Core Stage within the Shi Family Clan will leave their Natal Light in the clan temple, forming a connection with my soul. If my soul does not perish, their Natal Light will not burn out."

"Your father left the family because of you, but your Shi family did take pity on the ancestors of your father and yourself, thus they continue to keep the Natal Light of your father." Lin Feng

followed with, "I recently received news that your father's Natal Light is intact."

Xiao Bu Dian heaved a sigh of relief, but he was still a little worried.

Zhu Yi, who was at a corner, said gently, "Master, in half a year's time, it will be the scholarly examination again. I will like to attend this examination."

"Please do not be worried, Master. I will not affect my guidance of the disciples on the mountain."

Lin Feng looked at him, answering him slowly, "I have always been at ease when you do things."

This examination is definitely a very apt opportunity for you to realize your dream."

Zhu Yi nodded his head in silence.

He and Lin Feng were both sure that the Celestial Sect of Wonders and the Great Zhou Empire were in a period of honeymoon. To take care of Lin Feng's emotions, the Zhou Emperor Liang Pan would not dare to be stingy.

If Zhu Yi could top this examination, he would be able to give his mother, Meng Bingyun, fame and a comfortable life.

With Liang Pan's edict, even the Marquis of Xuanji, Zhu Hongwu, had to obey.

As to how much he could get, it depended on how much Zhu Yi knew about the circumstances of the Great Zhou Empire.

Before embarking on their journey, Lin Feng went to Wang Lin's cave after explaining many things to Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao.

Wang Lin saw that Lin Feng had arrived and stopped his cultivation immediately, greeting Lin Feng. Lin Feng waved his head and passed Wang Lin a ceramic jar that was full of elixirs.

"Master?" Wang Lin was a little confused. Lin Feng said, "This ceramic jar contains the celestial elixirs of the Heavenly Master Sword Sect. There are seven elixirs in total. You shall consume them according to the situation. Although this elixir can be consumed with effect for a couple of times, its effectiveness will dwindle over time."

Wang Lin received the celestial elixirs but did not realize that anything was amiss. In the entire sect, only he was suitable to consume such an elixir.

Using the elixir to help in the cultivation was definitely not as reliable as one's own cultivation, as the foundation was not as stable. Xiao Yan, Xiao Bu Dian, Zhu Yi and even Yang Qing and Yue Hongyan would hope to cultivate based on their own hard work

and not through consuming elixirs.

Even if they wanted, Lin Feng would not allow.

If it was the Trāyastriṃśa Elixir of Creation, then it would be a different issue. It was a different level than the Celestial Elixir. There were no side effects after consuming it and its effects were unbelievable.

But Wang Lin was different. His natural Innate Ability was too low, thus it was predestined that his Qi Cultivation Stage and Foundation Establishment Stage was slow like a turtle's crawl. He would need longer than others.

But attaining both full points for Innate Ability and Determination could ensure that even if Wang Lin had to rely on the elixir to increase his cultivation, he could perfect the foundation that was not naturally reliable and achieved significant results.

If it were not for the fact that the effectiveness of the elixir decreases after each use, Lin Feng would have thought of a way to produce the celestial elixir in huge amounts and fed them to Wang Lin.

That was why when Wang Lin received the celestial elixir, he had only gratitude in his heart for Lin Feng and never thought that he would attract the unhappiness of his fellow sect members if he was to consume everything for himself.

Lin Feng looked at Wang Lin, saying gently, "Lin, you have a strong will and that is your strength. I will not say any further, but I need to remind you that you must never rush. More haste, less speed."

Wang Lin lifted his head and looked at Lin Feng. He felt that Lin Feng's gaze had pierced into his heart.

When battling various opponents, the differences were not that obvious yet. But during the process of capturing Tuntun, many took turns to spar with her and revealed the gaping differences in the cultivation of Lin Feng's disciples.

In terms of practical battle, the strongest currently was his most senior disciple, Xiao Yan. He repressed Tuntun, who substituted the Gengjin Tiger King's corpse for her flesh, contained the Gifted Engulfing Theurgy and the Grand Sun Primordial Fire.

The combination of the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire and the Grand Sun Primordial Fire brought about a frightening pressure, causing Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao to stare at it and scared Tuntun away.

Strictly speaking, Zhu Yi did not make a move but eventually used his Great Boundaries of the Celestial Light and Darkness Mandala to contain Tuntun.

Xiao Bu Dian was also not directly involved and he gained a cheap advantage because of Zhu Yi.

But after Lin Feng removed Zhu Yi's Light and Darkness boundaries, Tuntun did not dare to make any wrong movement beside Xiao Bu Dian.

Xiao Bu Dian, whose Nine Holed Aurous Core could spit and swallow up the Earth, had the most vigorous mana that trumped all of Lin Feng's disciples. After cultivating the Heaven Shaking Thunderstorm, the destructive abilities of Xiao Bu Dian's strong flesh and soul became even more frightening.

The Bastille Black Dragon clan was the strongest amongst the Immemorial Celestial Dragons.

Even among the demonic clan, it was also one of the strongest. But if Jieyu did not form the demon soul and promote to a demon lord, he might not be able to overcome Xiao Bu Dian.

As they clashed head on, Tuntun was unable to deal with the three of them.

Among the remaining, Yue Hongyan was not around. Yang Qing and Wang Lin clashed with Tuntun and were repressed by her easily.

Especially when Tuntun engulfed Wang Lin's destructive powers, nothing happened to her at all.

With the same magnitude of power as the Destruction of Heaven and Earth, the collapse of Zhu Yi's Light and Darkness boundaries

caused her to be paralyzed.

Wang Lin was not like Yang Qing who doubted himself. But he would double his efforts because of the hate for his own uselessness.

Staying beside Xiao Yan and the rest caused great stress among the others. Once they could not convert stress into motivation, they would be greatly burdened.

Calculating the amount of time spent in the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World, Wang Lin had already been held down for many years. Fortunately, his determination was strong enough. If it was another person, he would have collapsed in a defeatist attitude or be consumed by a jealous mind.

Lin Feng looked at Wang Lin quietly. Wang Lin was very calm and nodded his head vigorously,

"Your disciple will follow your teachings and will take great care."

After acknowledging Wang Lin, Lin Feng brought Xiao Yan and the rest out of Mount Yujing and proceeded towards Xingyun Peak, the location of the Sword of Radiance Sect.

He did not control Mount Yujing and caused it to descend. That would be too attention-seeking. But its nature had changed. It was no longer a sparring session between the disciples, but an attack on

someone else's house.

However, Lin Feng had his own way of seeking attention.

The best tool was Jieyu, who had just promoted to the level of a demonic lord.

Everyone stood in a line on Jieyu's back and flew towards the direction of Xingyun Peak in a blink of an eye.

"There is no need to travel through space." Lin Feng told Jieyu. "Just fly there all the way. Let these guys understand the beauty of the mountains and broaden their minds."

Lin Feng decided to make this planned battle as recognized as possible. This allowed him to boost his own reputation and the reputation of his sect outside of Mount Kunlun.

Riding a dragon of the level of a demonic lord across the borders was definitely not low profile at all.

Very soon, Lin Feng's and the Celestial Sect of Wonders' reputation became more and more pronounced as they traveled from Mount Kunlun to Xingyun Peak.

On Xingyun Peak, the elders of the Sword of Radiance Sect also heard about Lin Feng's impending arrival at their abode, causing the huge crowd to open their eyes wide.

"Azure Clouds Grandmaster has not found Murong Yanran?"

Chapter 238: The Azure Clouds

Grandmaster Who Was On The Verge Of Crying

Lin Feng and the rest rode on Black Dragon Jieyu and entered the southeast district of the Great Qin Empire.

Tuntun looked at the mountain view below her and said, "I remembered that the Blue Cloud Horn Snake is somewhere in the vicinity."

Xiao Bu Dian heard that and his eyes lighted up immediately, shouting, "Master!"

Lin Feng smiled slightly and used his toes to tap on Jieyu. Jieyu understood his intention immediately and reduced his pace, descending downwards.

"Contain your breath, or else the Blue Cloud Horn Snake will be frightened off." Tuntun slapped Jieyu's head.

Jieyu was furious, but he noticed that Xiao Bu Dian had the same thoughts as Tuntun. Therefore, he could only contain his anger.

"Bitch, do not give me an opportunity or else I will tear you apart. The gap in cultivation between me and you is different now!" Jieyu thought of it hatefully but still hid her dragon aura.

Those in the demonic clan that had formed the demon pill could hide their demonic aura. But the dragon clan's dragon aura was too special. If they were only in the cultivation of a demonic commander like Jieyu, even if they tried to control it, they would still be unable to fully hide it.

But since he had already formed the demon soul and attained the position of a demonic lord, this was an easy task for Jieyu. Although he was a thousand foot long huge dragon, there was no vibration of his inner demonic powers.

Everyone landed within the mountains and Jieyu shook his head, groaning, "Two hundred miles to the east."

Xiao Bu Dian heard of the great news and said, "Thank you!" After saying he jumped off with Tuntun and rushed towards the east side.

Xiao Yan looked at them, "Master, let me follow them and take a look. I do not want any accidents to happen."

Lin Feng said, "No harm, it is just a Blue Cloud Horn Snake in the demonic commander level."

"I am just worried that if they meet someone, something unpleasant will happen." Xiao Yan explained.

Yue Hongyan was confused, "With Tianhao's cultivation, there is hardly anyone who can deal with him."

Xiao Yan twisted his lips, "I am worried that the person they meet get into trouble and not them mischievous monkeys."

Yue Hongyan was silent, whereas Jieyu nodded in agreement.

Lin Feng looked at Xiao Yan and smiled slightly, "If Zhu Yi said something like this, I may still find it reliable. As for you? If something really happens, I fear that you will make it a bigger matter than Tianhao."

Xiao Yan laughed, "Master, do not view me with a prejudiced mind."

Lin Feng shook his head while laughing, "Forget it, just go if you want to." He turned his head and looked at Yue Hongyan, "Hongyan, do you want to join in the fun too?"

Yue Hongyan shook his head, "No. I shall meditate and cultivate for a while."

Lin Feng smiled slightly and was silent.

Yue Hongyan and the rest were all quite straightforward and did not really bother about the opinions of others. If this was a sociable person, he would grab any opportunity to exploit and build up his relationship with the seniors.

Both parties had their strengths and weaknesses. No one was right or wrong. It depended on the circumstances and the situation.

Although Lin Feng's disciples were all brilliant in their own ways, they had a rather peaceful relationship with one another.

The saying goes that there cannot be two tigers on the same mountain.

The four of them, including Xiao Yan, were all blessed with the destiny to become a protagonist of an era.

Normal people have differences with one another in terms of personality, hobbies, way of doing things and style, which could lead to friction. They were not excluded.

Lin Feng was very fortunate. Although there was some competitive friction between them, it was very healthy competition. Furthermore, they had established a strong and deep friendship with one another.

Initially, in the Chessboard World, Lin Feng witnessed Xiao Bu Dian's and Xiao Yan's impression and thoughts on each other.

Xiao Bu Dian treated Xiao Yan as his shield and a gorilla who was easily duped when he was in bad mood.

But if we turned this around, was it not a form of recognition

towards Xiao Yan? In Xiao Bu Dian's subconscious awareness, this senior of his was strong and could overcome difficulties. When he got into trouble, the first person he looked towards for help was this Big Senior.

Whereas in Xiao Yan's heart, Xiao Bu Dian was a troublemaker that kept getting into all sorts of trouble and needed his help to clean up his mistakes.

Although he had a lot of complaints and whined over it, in his subconscious mind, Xiao Yan never gave up on Xiao Bu Dian and continued cleaning up after him.

Using the same reasoning, in Xiao Bu Dian's mind, Zhu Yi was a naggy white goose who kept preaching towards him. Although Xiao Bu Dian found that annoying, he did not walk out on him but remained patient listening to Zhu Yi.

In Xiao Bu Dian's heart, Wang Lin was a dog who did not bark but bite, which left him scared. But in truth, Xiao Bu Dian's powers were above Wang Lin. However, he always tried to avoid Wang Lin in his mind and did not try to beat this black dog to death.

This situation was one of the more ideal ones already.

Yue Hongyan's personality would be suitable in such a benign environment.

It was just that the more people there were, they would be more

opinions, which would make the group more difficult to move around with.

These problems were tests for Lin Feng's control as a master. If he could guide his disciples in the direction of healthy competition, then it would be good.

Therefore, even though the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir had already been completely derived, it did not need to be preserved and could be given to any disciple for his consumption, but Lin Feng still kept it.

He had already formed his soul. At this stage, the contribution of his Innate Ability to his cultivation was negligible, hence it was natural that he did not require the elixir and should give it to his disciples.

The most suitable successor of all was undoubtedly Wang Lin.

The rest might not even need it at all.

If the foundation was poor, the room for improvement was large. On the contrary, if the foundation was already solid, it would be difficult to improve leaps and bounds.

Lin Feng had reason to believe that giving the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir to Xiao Bu Dian had no difference compared to giving him sweets.

For someone like Yang Qing whose Innate Ability was already 9 points, there would be no significant effects. As for Xiao Yan and Yue Hongyan, who both had Innate Ability of 8 points, as well as Zhu Yi, who ranked in with 7 points, they might achieve a higher level if they consumed the elixir.

As for Wang Lin, although the detailed effects were unknown, it was definite to witness a huge improvement from him.

It was just that this sort of elixir was different from the Celestial Elixir. It was difficult to predict what kind of thoughts the rest of Lin Feng's disciples would have if he only gave the elixir to Wang Lin.

They might not have any, but it was imperative for Lin Feng to completely remove any possibility of that happening.

Although it might delay Wang Lin's cultivation, Lin Feng could only temporarily deal with it in that way. The fortunate thing was that he already had the recipe. As long as he could gather all the necessary medicinal components, he could produce the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir in bulk.

When that happened, not only would Wang Lin benefit, the level of the entire sect would also be greatly boosted.

Lin Feng was pondering before he thought of something and lifted his head to look in the southern direction of the sky.

"Is that the Azure Clouds Grandmaster?" Lin Feng asked softly, but it still resonated at a radius of three hundred square miles in space.

Three hundred miles down south, a crack suddenly appeared in the sky. A great amount of green Azure Clouds flowed out of it. The Azure Clouds dragged an old person along. It was the elder in the Soul Formation Stage of the Sword of Radiance Sect, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster.

It was just that compared to the calmness he exuded at Shazhou previously, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster of present was obviously more anxious. After seeing Lin Feng, he calmed his expression and became composed again.

But Lin Feng could sense that the Azure Clouds Grandmaster became more anxious after seeing him.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster greeted Lin Feng after seeing him, "So it really is the leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders. Pardon my discourtesy."

Lin Feng laughed slightly, "You are too kind. Did you come to receive me specially? This is unnecessary, I do recognize the way to Xingyun Peak."

"It is necessary." Azure Clouds Grandmaster started to speak bitterly and lowered his head to look at the silent Black Dragon Jieyu. He became more light-headed upon seeing him, "A dragon in the cultivation of a demonic lord as the chauffeur. The rumors

were true!"

Although he knew Lin Feng brought Xiao Yan to Xingyun Peak to fulfill his promise, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster wished that he would not have to see this pair of master and disciple anymore.

He did not come to welcome them but came to see Murong Yanran.

Murong Yanran was a new generation disciple that the Sword of Radiance Sect nurtured. For safety purposes, her master, Tong Lin Priestess, gave her three Great Teleportation Talisman.

This was initially something that the Azure Clouds Grandmaster consented to, but now he was furious until he wanted to berate someone.

After Murong Yanran left Xingyun Peak, she consecutively used all three of the Great Teleportation Talisman and escaped thousands of miles away in an instant. Not to even mention the rest of the Sword of Radiance sect members, even Tong Lin Priestess, an elder in the Aurous Core Stage, could not locate her.

Out of desperation, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster had no choice but to find her himself. The three Great Teleportation Talisman was created by him, which gave him some traces to find her.

That was why he chased till here.

He thought that he was almost onto her and his hope was ignited, but who knew that the Azure Clouds Grandmaster would bump into Lin Feng.

The old man was really on the verge of crying.

But the Azure Clouds Grandmaster did not dare to neglect Lin Feng. He could only pass the message to the rest of the elders of the Sword of Radiance Sect in the Soul Formation Stage that he arrived to welcome Lin Feng secretly, while still searching for Murong Yanran, although he had to thicken his skin to welcome the visitor.

The slight movement of the Azure Clouds Grandmaster could not be hidden from Lin Feng. It was just that Lin Feng did not mind. Even if they wanted to set a trap for him, he was unafraid.

Lin Feng was just curious why the Azure Clouds Grandmaster was so anxious. "This old man seems to have lost something and he is finding it anxiously."

However, he did not reveal anything on the surface and just slightly laughed, "I have heard of the glorious reputation of the Sword of Radiance Sect, but I have never done a proper visit. This time around, I must really pay a proper visit."

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster restrained his anxious mood, answering politely, "Before I left, my sect's master had also mentioned that he wanted to meet with the leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders."

Lin Feng's previous exhibition of his abilities was an evidence of his immortality, which was something that also had to be taken seriously.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster paused for a moment and tested by asking, "My sect's disciple, Murong Yanran, seemed to have a misunderstanding with your disciple in the past. I think that it is just a squabble between youths and it is not something to be taken seriously. What do you think?"

Chapter 239: You Have Recognized The Wrong Person!

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster tested waters by asking, "My sect's disciple, Murong Yanran, had some sort of misunderstanding with your disciple. I think it is just a squabble between youths and should not be taken seriously. What do you think?"

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster also knew that the way he asked was too straightforward, but he was too anxious at that point in time, thus he could only thicken his skin to ask.

"It seems like Murong Yanran's abilities are limited and she is not as strong as Xiao Yan." Lin Feng realized and smiled slightly. He opened his mouth and said, "Whether it can be taken seriously, it is not up to me to say. It depends on parties involved."

"However, it seems like my disciple has remembered the promise they made." Lin Feng answered in a plain voice, but the content of his words made the Azure Clouds Grandmaster frightened.

"Xiao Yan is my most senior disciple. He has decided to come over to Xingyun Peak and I will support him fully in this decision."

Lin Feng saw that the Azure Clouds Grandmaster was starting to break out in cold sweat and said quietly, "Please do not misunderstand, my friend. I will not interfere in the wager made between these two young juniors. My only purpose here is to visit the leader of the Sword of Radiance Sect."

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster laughed, "That is naturally so."

Although he wore a smile on his face, his heart was extremely bitter.

And although Lin Feng's words were simple, there were hidden meanings within it that revealed his intentions.

The wager between the two young juniors would not be interfered by anyone.

In other words, if anyone else interfered in the matter between the two young juniors, he would not be merciful either.

Yes, the leader of the Sword of Radiance Sect contained immortality abilities, but in front of Lin Feng, he had to follow the rules too. If he tried to renege on the promise, then he and Lin Feng could spar to determine whose mana was more powerful and whose abhijna was greater.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster grew cowardly in his heart but did not dare to react in front of Lin Feng. He was extremely depressed.

Lin Feng's mana placed him at the center of a boundary covering three hundred square miles that was cut off from the outside, causing the Azure Clouds Grandmaster to be three hundred miles apart. The Azure Clouds Grandmaster did not dare to use his own

mana to explore the zone that Lin Feng was in.

That was why he could not see from Lin Feng's position that Xiao Yan and the rest were curiously admiring a Blue Cloud Horn Snake hunting, two hundred miles east from him.

As Lin Feng said, this was a Blue Cloud Horn Snake that had formed the demon pill and reached the level of a demonic commander. Its entire body was greenish-blue like a piece of jade and its size was not very huge. It was only ten meters in length, but its demonic aura was ferocious.

This Blue Cloud Horn Snake grew several long horns on its forehead and it emanated a fragrance from within.

The opening of the scales on the snake's surface subtly contained foul greenish-blue clouds. It surrounded the entire body of the Blue Cloud Horn Snake. Although it did not have the mighty stature of the dragon clan, it was still special.

Tuntun saw that the Blue Cloud Horn Snake was salivating and began to introduce it to Xiao Bu Dian and Xiao Yan in full details, "This Blue Cloud Horn Snake has three treasures. The most delicious part of its entire body is the horn on its head."

"That horn is very tough and does not taste very nice on its own. But the horn is hollow and contains an amber liquid. It is the essence of the Blue Cloud Horn Snake, which is extremely delicious."

"Besides the liquid in the horn, the second most delicious thing on the Blue Cloud Horn Snake is the foul greenish clouds in between the openings of the scales. Do not view it only as a gas. After you consume it, the taste is actually very delicious. Compared to this, the snake meat can only come in third."

Xiao Yan twisted his lips, "The liquid in the horn is still acceptable, but what is so good about the gas? I believe only Taoties can eat something like this."

Tuntun snorted, "You cannot appreciate delicacies."

"Try it later and you shall find out." Xiao Bu Dian interrupted their debate and stared at the Blue Cloud Horn Snake. "This little fellow seems to be hunting as well."

The Blue Cloud Horn Snake continued to release the foul greenish-blue clouds around it and packaged it into a ball of reddish clouds as if it was trying to refine the reddish clouds.

Xiao Yan and the rest scanned their surroundings and immediately knew that the reddish clouds was something different. It was a treasure. Looking at the fluctuation in the spiritual energy of it, it was probably a device that was sacrificed by human cultivators.

It was just that the said person's cultivation was a little low. When it was surrounded and attacked by the Blue Cloud Horn Snake that had formed the demon pill, it could only defend itself.

But the Blue Cloud Horn Snake noticed the presence of Xiao Yan and the other two and was obviously very fearful. It became wary of them and that was why the reddish clouds became very stable, not in danger of being broken into.

Xiao Bu Dian rubbed his palms and walked towards the Blue Cloud Horn Snake, laughing,

"Tuntun, do you think it is better to make snake soup or should I grill it?"

Tuntun rolled his eyes, "No matter how you eat it, the best is to catch it alive. Otherwise, the greenish-blue clouds will be wasted."

The Blue Cloud Horn Snake possessed a comparable intelligence to humans and overheard the conversation between the three of them. It was furious, but it dared not move as the stress that Xiao Bu Dian and the rest brought on it was too huge.

But if it just escaped straight away, the Blue Cloud Horn Snake would be unable to swallow this bitter pill. The vertical-like eyes of the snake moved and it suddenly opened its mouth, spraying an amber demonic gas out.

This amber demonic gas was converted from the liquid within its horn. When the demonic gas came into contact with the reddish clouds, although it did not directly break through it, it caused the reddish clouds to reel from the ground.

The reddish clouds was directly swallowed by the Blue Cloud Horn Snake as it was surrounded by the amber demonic gas.

It was preparing to escape. Even if the reddish clouds could not be broken through in that instant, it was more imperative to escape with it and slowly form it again once the danger had been averted.

After keeping the reddish clouds, the Blue Cloud Horn Snake bounced off the ground and converted itself into a green light, preparing to slither away.

"Thinking about it, it was quite beautiful." Xiao Yan laughed creepily, waving the Black Cloud Flag to shift time and space. In a flash, he had already blocked the Blue Cloud Horn Snake from the front.

The Blue Cloud Horn Snake howled loudly and a huge amount of greenish clouds surged forward, ready to swallow Xiao Yan.

The greenish clouds brought with it a light leafy aroma, but Xiao Yan had no time to understand it better. There was a big vibration of ferocious demonic powers in the clouds, causing light tremors.

Xiao Yan creased his brows, "What a demon. Your gifted theurgy does have some similarities to my Crash of the Eight Trigrams."

As he said it, Xiao Yan punched his fist out and a great amount of disintegration powers encountered the greenish clouds. The

greenish clouds started to disintegrate.

But this greenish clouds from the Blue Cloud Horn Snake was indeed powerful, as it also caused Xiao Yan's mana to collapse gradually.

Xiao Yan slightly frowned, as he knew that this could not be sustained.

Out of Lin Feng's three disciples who had formed the Aurous Core, only Xiao Bu Dian's Nine Holed Aurous Core was able to spit and swallow spiritual energy. The accumulated mana caused it to be the most ferocious, while the recovery ability was particularly strong at the same time. As the Nine Holed Aurous Core spat and swallowed spiritual energy, it instantly converted a huge amount of spiritual energy to mana.

Zhu Yi's Light and Darkness Aurous Core combined two elements to form life. Although its mana was not as ferocious as that of Xiao Bu Dian, its recovery ability was much stronger.

Whereas Xiao Yan's Primordial Fires Aurous Core had the highest explosive strength and instantaneously exploded to release a huge amount of power. However, its sustainability and recovery ability was much worst.

Xiao Yan cultivated the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams and sucked the Purple Clouds for his own cultivation. With his mana, he could overwhelm the Blue Cloud Horn Snake, but he remembered Lin Feng's teaching.

"Xiao Yan, regardless of your Aurous Core mana or your normal cultivated abhijna, the key lies in its explosive strength. Fighting a long-drawn battle is not your strength. You should try your best to minimize your weaknesses. But when you fight in a real battle, you must try to display your strengths."

"Habit is a scary thing. It influences your judgments unknowingly, that is why you must show your strengths and hide your weaknesses. A dead enemy is a good enemy."

Up till this point, Xiao Yan did not hesitate any more. He conjured all his mana and exhibited his pair of purplish-blue flaming wings. The destructive and frightening stature slowly appeared.

"No!" Both Tuntun and Xiao Bu Dian both shouted, but the wings that Xiao Yan formed using the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire suddenly combined in mid-space. It was like a big pair of scissors and it directly cut through the greenish clouds by the Blue Cloud Horn Snake.

There was no stopping of the purplish-blue wings. As the Blue Cloud Horn Snake stared at it fearfully, it was cut in half by it.

The willpower of the snake was strong. Even though it was chopped into half, the upper half of the snake's body escaped, albeit struggling. Whereas for the lower half of the snake's body, it continued to wriggle continuously on the ground.

Thunder and lightning were raging all around Xiao Bu Dian and he heavily stepped on the head of the Blue Cloud Horn Snake, trapping it on the ground. Seeing that the upper body of the Blue Cloud Horn Snake was still burning ferociously with the purplish-blue Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire, he shouted hurriedly, "Big Senior, quickly retrieve back your abhijna, otherwise the snake meat would be burnt till nothing left."

Tuntun was jumping while screaming beside Xiao Yan, "I already told you to catch it alive, this is such a waste!"

Xiao Yan snorted, "If I did not act faster, the person that was swallowed by it would have been in danger. Is a life more important or eating more important?"

Tuntun thought for a while, before replying, "Of course it is eating!"

Xiao Yan rolled his eyes and ignored her.

Xiao Bu Dian increased his leg strength, causing the Blue Cloud Horn Snake to be fully

immobilized. He raised his head to look at Xiao Yan, "Big Senior, what if the person you save is an evil person, then what follows?"

Xiao Yan answered, "Kill him directly then. What do you mean what follows?" He retrieved back his Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire and tore apart its guts, revealing a reddish cloud device.

The amber demonic had already been converted to liquid and kept in the horn of the Blue Cloud Horn Snake. Without the repression of the amber demonic gas, the digestive power of the Blue Cloud Horn Snake was unable to break down the reddish clouds.

As if it felt that the demonic powers attacking it had disappeared, the reddish clouds slightly trembled but it did not scatter.

Xiao Yan raised his hands to hit against the reddish clouds and he felt that he was hitting cotton candy.

"Okay, that Blue Cloud Horn Snake can no longer threaten you. You can come out."

Listening to Xiao Yan's voice and feeling that the vibration of the mana was not from a demonic clan, the other party seemed to relax. The reddish clouds slowly dispersed and revealed the appearance of the person inside it. The reddish clouds were converted to a streak of red and was hidden in the gourd between his waist.

After clearly seeing the appearance of the other party, both Xiao Yan and that guy revealed a ghastly expression and shouted, "Murong Yanran?" "Xiao Yan?"

At the next moment, both shook their head and said, "You recognized the wrong person!"

Xiao Yan was momentarily shocked. He had spent so much time trying to save his opponent. If Xiao Bu Dian and the rest knew about it, he would be extremely embarrassed.

Murong Yanran was even more embarrassed and she could not wait to find a hole to bury his head inside. For the first time, she felt that there was something worse than being trapped in the body of a snake.

Chapter 240: Xiao Bu Dian Has An Evil Tongue

Even if it was their first meeting, it was only a casual one. Furthermore, they might not have recognized each other's appearance clearly.

But if the time of cultivation in their own caves were considered, maybe they had not seen each other in more than ten years.

That was even though the appearances of both had experienced a huge change.

But both Xiao Yan and Murong Yanran still were able to recognize each other.

It was just that they were taken aback under such a situation. Murong Yanran and Xiao Yan were both embarrassed and awkward.

Xiao Yan had expected Murong Yanran to oversee Xingyun Peak, grandly awaiting his arrival.

Otherwise, he would have expected him to bring together the members of the Sword of Radiance Sect, intercepting him halfway and killing him. But he had never expected Murong Yanran to be in such an embarrassing state.

Xiao Bu Dian passed the Blue Cloud Horn Snake to Tuntun and approached forward, curiously asking, "Big Senior, are the both of you acquainted?"

Murong Yanran and Xiao Yan shouted in unison, "No!"

"Who are you trying to bluff?" Xiao Bu Dian looked at the two embarrassed individuals, twisted his lips and looked at Xiao Yan. "Big Senior, I am already 21 years old and not a little kid. Do not treat me like it is so easy to pacify, okay?"

Xiao Yan rolled his eyes and did not answer him.

Xiao Bu Dian looked at Murong Yanran with a smile on his face, "If I did not hear wrongly, I remember him calling your name."

Murong Yanran's face turned black, knowing that Xiao Bu Dian was acting foolish even though he obviously knew about it.

"So, you are Murong Yanran?" Xiao Bu Dian walked around her. "So, it was you who rejected my Big Senior. You have a special personality."

As Murong Yanran was scrutinized by Xiao Bu Dian, she felt extremely embarrassed although Xiao Bu Dian was still a big child.

What made her more embarrassed was that Xiao Bu Dian was not appreciating her beauty, but curiously observing her like an animal.

"Although I am not a cultivator in the Aurous Core Stage, you are wrong if you think you can belittle me." Murong Yanran calmed her nerves and said seriously, "Are the disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders of such low upbringing?"

Xiao Bu Dian opened his eyes wide, as if he saw the most shocking thing on Earth, before laughing, "You cannot stand this already? When you dumped my Big Senior at Shazhou County, where did your upbringing go to?"

"Someone who humiliates others subjects herself to humiliation. What gives you any special rights?"

Murong Yanran went pale and she was silent.

Xiao Yan waved his hand in a distance and Xiao Bu Dian stopped talking. Xiao Yan stared at Murong Yanran, saying calmly, "Lady Murong, why are you here?"

"Travelling? It seems like you have forgotten that someone said before that he will go to Xingyun Peak to challenge you. Or you may have thought that the person will never appear?"

Murong Yanran took in a deep breath and raised her head to look at Xiao Yan, "I did not forget.

Since we have met today, let us fulfill our wager from before."

As she was saying, she slapped the treasure gourd on her waist and a reddish fog surged out, masking her entire body. At the same time, the long sword at her waist was drawn and became a white radiance flashing in mid-space.

At this point, she already knew that Xiao Yan's abilities were well over hers, but she was still determined to give it her all. Her pride and dignity did not allow her to back down in front of Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan looked at Murong Yanran without speaking, whereas Xiao Bu Dian laughed while looking at Murong Yanran, saying, "Middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Stage? You cannot overcome my Big Senior then."

He turned his head to look at Xiao Yan, "Big Senior, let us return to where Master is. Let him create a Celestial Small World for the both of you to duel and let Master repress your cultivation."

"There is no use repressing it to the Foundation Establishment Stage though. The disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders have invincible powers. If she wants to spar with you, Master must at least repress your cultivation to the Qi Cultivation Stage."

Murong Yanran was enraged while Xiao Yan looked at Xiao Bu Dian expressionlessly.

Tuntun could care less about the Blue Cloud Horn Snake and looked at Xiao Bu Dian while shaking her head, thinking, "This little devil's mouth is too evil already. If I was Murong Yanran, I have no other path to choose other than fight for my life."

Otherwise, I will have no more face to show others."

The problem was, the result will literally be death.

Murong Yanran took in a deep breath and threw all nonsensical thoughts to the back of her head. The long sword was lifted straight in front of her chest and she said in a deep voice, "Disciple of the Sword of Radiance Sect, Murong Yanran. Please advise."

After she finished speaking, she suddenly saw that Xiao Yan and Xiao Bu Dian were both looking at each other. Xiao Bu Dian spoiled the moment by whining, "No more nice show for me to see."

Before Murong Yanran even reacted, a streak of purple gas suddenly broke through space and dragged her away. After that, she lost her consciousness.

Lin Feng's voice resonated from space, "Xiao Yan, do not rush to make a move. This girl could have secretly escaped from the Sword of Radiance Sect."

Xiao Yan and Xiao Bu Dian were both stunned. Xiao Yan laughed, "What is the Sword of Radiance Sect doing?"

Xiao Bu Dian revealed a smile again, "This seems even more fun."

Lin Feng answered quietly, "Just act like you did not see this girl. We will go to Xingyun Peak as planned. When we are there, we will see what games they are trying to play."

Xiao Bu Dian and Xiao Yan agreed. Xiao Yan dazed in his position, while Xiao Bu Dian's attention was quickly shifted to the Blue Cloud Horn Snake that was with Tuntun.

Although Murong Yanran was dragged away by Lin Feng's powers, she awoke after a while. As she opened her eyes, she saw a young man in a purple robe looking at her quietly.

She could not feel any sense of stature or vibration of mana on the young man, but she was still frightened. She felt that the person in front was stronger than her elder, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster, by multiple times.

Murong Yanran had only seen this person for the first time in her life. The only time she felt the same feeling was when she visited the leader of the Sword of Radiance Sect.

The oppression of the Sword of Radiance Sect was more straightforward, but it was not as composed as the person in front of her.

Lin Feng looked at Murong Yanran with interest and he had something he really wanted to tell Murong Yanran.

"Lady, thanks for nurturing Xiao Yan for me. You are such a nice person!"

Murong Yanran looked at Lin Feng and felt that he looked

familiar, but could not recall where she saw him.

Lin Feng looked at Murong Yanran's perplexed expression and could not refrain from smiling. He knew what she was perplexed about.

Strictly speaking, they had both met once before.

Lin Feng learned from her the existence of Xiao Yan.

At that time, the gravely injured Long Ye possessed a peach tree, posing a threat to the Shi villagers and Xiao Bu Dian. A fledgling Lin Feng was only in the Qi Cultivation Stage. To save Xiao Bu Dian, he scammed Murong Yanran and her sect members to deal with Long Ye.

Lin Feng of the past and present was different. After staying in the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World for eight years, besides the changes in appearance, his stature and temperament had both changed.

To a bystander, it would be like there were two different individuals.

Murong Yanran thought that he was very familiar. This was all thanks to the fact that she had already started cultivating mantras, which made her spiritually enhanced, enabling her to retain some of the memories.

Lin Feng used his mind to summon the Purple Clouds to influence Murong Yanran's senses, wiping off her faint memories of Lin Feng.

Murong Yanran did not realize this and only felt a little faint-headed. After regaining her senses, she looked at Lin Feng and did not realize anything amiss. Although it was a little weird, she could only take it as she had recalled wrongly.

She looked at Lin Feng, asking politely, "Elder, may I ask who you are..."

"I am the leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, Lin Feng." Lin Feng answered, "You are Murong Yanran, a disciple of the Sword of Radiance Sect who had a wager with my disciple Xiao Yan?"

Murong Yanran smiled bitterly while nodding her head, bowing and greeting, "Murong Yanran is honored to meet the leader of Celestial Sect of Wonders."

Lin Feng asked, "What do you feel upon meeting Xiao Yan?"

Murong Yanran went pale, pursing her lips and asked softly, "I was young and reckless and suggested a foolish method to reject the marriage. I did not realize then, but when I grew older and thought about the matter, I realize that I have caused Xiao Yan and his family much embarrassment."

"Regarding this, I am extremely apologetic. But I do not regret

rejecting the marriage. Now that Xiao Yan's cultivation has far exceeded mine, it is all due to his destiny and achievements. I am not jealous. I will make the decisions regarding my marriage and I will not regret them."

The expression on Lin Feng's face did not change, but he muttered silently, "Do not say this, little girl. His achievements are partly your credit."

Murong Yanran looked at the emotionless Lin Feng, slowly bowing, "The promise we made in the past was that if I lose in the hands of Xiao Yan, I am willing to be a slave or a maid. However, I am unable to fulfill this wager now. My family and sect will not be able to accept such a result."

"Anyway, in Xiao Yan's eyes, I am just a thick-skinned person. Let me just be thick-skinned once more. The mistake that I had made in the past, I am willing to use my life to pay for it. But if you want me to be a slave or a maid, I am unable to do it."

Lin Feng looked at her but did not reply. On the other hand, he said, "Oh yes, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster from the Sword of Radiance Sect, is he your elder?"

Murong Yanran trembled in shock, before hearing Lin Feng continuing his words, "He is now three hundred miles south from here. According to him, he is here to welcome me on my journey to the Sword of Radiance Sect at Xingyun Peak."

"But now it seems like he is here to find you?"

Murong Yanran trembled again, lowering her head. After a while, she said softly, "I do not know why he is here. I had only gone out for traveling purposes and I am preparing to return to the Sword of Radiance Sect."

Lin Feng laughed, "Oh, that is just nice. I will call him over and you can go with him."

Murong Yanran did not know what to say and her body just trembled vigorously.

Lin Feng looked at her and suddenly asked, "Why did you secretly escape from the Sword of Radiance Sect? According to what you said previously, you did not plan to avoid the battle with Xiao Yan."

Chapter 241: Something Interesting

Lin Feng looked at Murong Yanran with much interest as his mind raced with calculations.

"Why would she run away privately from Sword of Radiance Sect? Based on what she said earlier, she didn't do it to avoid fighting with Xiao Yan."

If she did not do it to avoid the fight, it only meant that the Sword of Radiance Sect took measures of some sort and she could not accept the new change of plans.

This girl did not want to follow through with the bet, yet she was willing to give her life for it.

Although it could be that she was temporarily withdrawing as a stepping stone to progress his attitude already showed that her personality was rather strong and resilient.

"Do we decide on our own marriages?" Lin Feng thought to himself as he slowly worked things out in his head. "If I were the Sword of Radiance Sect and I was faced with a problem like this, what would I do?"

If I were no match for my adversary and I did not want to be bullied, the best solution would be to seek help elsewhere and reduce the pressure.

Lin Feng watched the distressed and restless Murong Yanran and suddenly asked, "Tell me, who did the Sword of Radiance Sect want to send you to and connect by marriage? Was it the Mount Shu Sword Sect or the Great Qin Empire?"

Murong Yanran raised her head to look at Lin Feng in trepidation. Lin Feng was calm; the only two entities that were suitable to help the Sword of Radiance Sect resist the pressure from the Celestial Sect of Wonders were the Mount Shu Sword Sect and the Great Qin Empire.

"I... I don't know what you're talking about, sir." Murong Yanran lowered her head.

The corner of Lin Feng's mouth curved into a faint smile and his voice was warm and amiable. Yet, every word that he had said to Murong Yanran seemed to send shivers down her spine.

"You could not accept being a slave girl to one of my disciples for the sake of avoiding embarrassment for your family and your Sect. But did you consider the consequences? Did you consider the fact that your escape from the arranged marriage will cause irreparable damage between the Sword of Radiance Sect and the other party?"

"It is still okay if it's the Mount Shu Sword Sect, but if the other party is the Great Qin Empire, your actions may bring demise to your entire family. If I recall correctly, even though the Murong family isn't considered within the four big families of the Great Qin Empire, its reputation is still rather considerable."

"Furthermore, the base of your Murong family is right under the nose of the Great Qin Emperor, inside the capital of the Great Qin Empire, Xiling City."

Murong Yanran's body trembled in shock as she began to see stars. Previously, her mind was a mess and all she thought about was to escape the marriage and run from Xingyun Peak as far as possible. She had failed to consider the fact that she was supposed to be married to Prince Chong Yun, the crown prince of the Great Qin Empire.

There was a huge possibility that her escape from the marriage would incur severe consequences for her family.

Grief arose from within as she heaved a heavy sigh. "Is this my fate? Is there no way to escape it?"

Lin Feng observed Murong Yanran in silence as he twitched his lips in his mind.

Her predicament could be viewed from two different perspectives. Put nicely, she was seeking freedom, independence of thought and wanted to make choices for herself.

On the other hand, she had many privileges in status and finances as the prized daughter of the Murong family and a disciple of the Sword of Radiance Sect that most people could only dream of, yet she did not want to pay any price for it.

Be it the normal world or the world of cultivation, arranged marriages or marriages for the alliance between renowned families and sects were commonplace and the opposite was, in contrast, a minority.

As the saying goes, you reap what you sow. In other words, one should be willing to take responsibility for the privileges bestowed upon him or her.

Murong Yanran was disgusted by the marriage arranged by her family and sect, but she forgot that it was only because she was the prized daughter of the Murong family and a disciple of the Sword of Radiance Sect that she could enjoy such privileges.

Of course, maybe she just wanted to be born into a normal family.

This was no longer something that Lin Feng could guess. He could only deduce based on the clues presented to him; he could not possibly see through her heart.

Lin Feng was not sure and he could not possibly be about Murong Yanran's state of mind. Approaching the question with different perspectives usually produced different conclusions.

The only issue that Lin Feng was concerned about was how this problem affected him, Xiao Yan and the others.

At this point in time, Murong Yanran had calmed down. Even

though she was frantic and her face was as pale as paper, she still greeted Lin Feng with due respect. "Sir, please point me in the direction of the Azure Clouds Grandmaster."

"Sir, you and your company have travelled far and are considered our guests here. As a disciple of the Sword of Radiance Sect, I am willing to be your guide and take everyone around Xingyun Peak."

Lin Feng shot a faint smile at Murong Yanran but said nothing.

Murong Yanran suddenly grew anxious as she realized that if Lin Feng knew the intentions of her grandmasters and masters, why would he let her go so easily?

The Great Qin Empire and the Sword of Radiance Sect would fall foul of each other if she were taken hostage. The Azure Clouds Grandmaster's plan would be thwarted and the Celestial Sect of Wonders could take this chance to cause the Sword of Radiance Sect some trouble with incredible ease.

The Sword of Radiance Sect had to be held accountable as Lin Feng brought Xiao Yan to Xingyun Peak to follow through with the gamble but Murong Yanran was a no-show. How could they explain themselves?

Following the opening ceremony of the mountain outside Shazhou City, Lin Feng and the Celestial Sect of Wonders had garnered some reputation. Lin Feng aside, the backgrounds of the rest of his disciples were no longer secrets.

Before everything, Xiao Yan squandered his talent and wasted his life away until he was taken in by Lin Feng, and his prowess skyrocketed. He became a role model as his story became the inspiration of today's youths.

It was inevitable that old accounts were spaded on the day of Murong Yanran's escape from her arranged marriage. In the end, everybody loved some juicy gossip and this kind of stories was the most welcome.

Initially, the circulation was minimal and within a small circle. However, with Lin Feng's growing reputation and him personally accompanying Xiao Yan to Xingyun Peak to follow through with the gamble, increasingly more people knew about this.

The Sword of Radiance Sect was getting more headaches from this as they could feel the trouble piling up.

If Murong Yanran was unable to show during the day of the fight, outsiders would think she was afraid; this result was more humiliating than actually losing the battle.

Furthermore, the Sword of Radiance Sect had already released Prince Chong Yun's dove. The Sword of Radiance would crumble under the pressure from both sides.

Murong Yanran looked up and met Lin Feng's gaze as her thoughts stopped there. It was obvious that there was fear in her eyes.

Lin Feng's attention was not on her, however, as he released a stream of consciousness and pinched a voice-projecting crystal to communicate with the other party through silent voice-projection.

"Did anything interesting happen recently?"

On the other side of the crystal, a crisp female voice could be heard. It seemed like the voice of the former holy priestess of the Great Void Sect, Yan Mingyue. "If you are looking for something interesting then it is you, Master Lin. You crossed half of the Great Qin Empire to accompany your disciple to Xingyin Peak."

Lin Feng was already accustomed to Yan Mingyue's teasing as they had spent a lot of time together. "You know what I'm asking."

Of course, Yan Mingyue knew. Lin Feng was referring the responses of the relevant powers to him crossing multiple territories on a dragon.

"The Crown Prince of the Great Qin Empire, Prince Chong Yun, left Xiling City recently but nobody knows where he is." Yan Mingyue said quietly, "People have been saying that he's on his way towards the South-Eastern territories of the Great Qin Empire."

The South-Eastern areas of the Great Qin Empire were the territory of the Sword of Radiance Sect and Xingyun Peak was there as well.

"He's coming personally?" Lin Feng thought for awhile and asked all of a sudden. "I heard there was a up and rising star from the Great Qin Empire?"

Yan Mingyue answered, "Master Lin must be referring to their new prime minister? Rumour has it that he does not possess and form of cultivation mastery and yet he has been able to subdue the subjects of the Great Qin Empire and bring them under his wing."

"He was able to create an uproar without being a cultivator himself. There is definitely something special about this person." Lin Feng smiled as he began to calculate again. "Thank you, cultivator Yan."

Yan Mingyue's voice was calm as she asked, "You're welcome, Master Lin. May I ask, when is your disciple Zhu Yi returning to Tianjing City? He has not visited Master Meng's grave in a while."

Lin Feng asked plainly, "Are you asking for yourself or for the Marquis Xuanji, Zhu Hongwu?"

Yan Mingyue replied, "I'm asking for Zhou Diliang."

Lin Feng laughed and said, "I see you intend to enter the palace directly instead of following in the Meng Bingyun's footsteps and marrying Zhu Hongwu?"

"Master Lin must be joking." There was a hint of glee in Yan Mingyue's voice. "The person I seek, similar to Master Meng, is

poles apart. Naturally, I wouldn't use the same method."

Lin Feng's pupils contracted. To his knowledge, Meng Bingyun and Yan Mingyue should be on the same side in the Great Void Sect. What Yan Mingyue was saying now seemed to suggest that she intended to break off. Did she develop other ideas?

Lin Feng did not betray any clues in his tone as thoughts spun around in his head. "I see. It is my bad, then."

Yan Mingyue continued and said, "Yes, there are some things that I have to let you know beforehand. After a few days, I am going to return to Mount Baiyun. When that happens, I won't be able to contact Master Lin like this."

Lin Feng nodded. What Yan Mingyue informed him about beforehand was good enough as he could now plan ahead and avoid being caught off guard by unforeseen circumstances.

"I pray that you have a safe journey." Lin Feng said as he smiled plainly.

Yan Mingyue laughed and said, "I am already satisfied that I'm not being chased out. Speaking of which, Junior Pang's has returned to Mount Baiyun. With his talent and the benefits he's received from his journey to Shazhou, he must have a breakthrough pretty soon."

Lin Feng smiled but did not continue with the topic at hand and

breezed over it. "Bon Voyage, my friend."

"I wish you all the best in your journey to Xingyun Peak as well." Yan Mingyue understood. She did not went on about Pang Jie and cut off communication immediately after.

Lin Feng pondered for a while and mumbled to himself, "I just have to make a trip to a certain place if I want to test my theory."

He raised his head and looked at Murong Yanran and met her anxious gaze. He smiled as he swept her with a stream of purple energy without explanation and Murong Yanran immediately lost consciousness.

Lin Feng called Xiao Yan and company back and released the mana barrier to let the Azure Clouds Grandmaster come near.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster had a similar apprehension. Even though he tried his best to show a calm and composed expression, he scrutinized Lin Feng and his disciples constantly as he was afraid they had already met Murong Yanran.

Xiao Yan and company had already received instructions from Lin Feng and controlled their emotions and did not let the Azure Clouds Grandmaster read any clues off them.

Because of this, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster became warier.

Lin Feng took the initiative and smiled as he said, "Before we

proceed to Xingyun Peak, I wish to go somewhere else on the way.
Are you willing to follow us, friend?"

Chapter 242: Returning Home

"Oh? If Master Lin has such an interest then I am happy to follow." Even though he was jittery and uneasy, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster had no choice but to leave Murong Yanran's issue aside for now and focus on handling Lin Feng.

At least he had already informed the other members of his sect to take over his duties of searching for Murong Yanran.

What the Azure Clouds Grandmaster was most afraid of was whether or not Murong Yanran was in already in the hands of Lin Feng. If that was the case, following Lin Feng at least gave him time to come up with a solution.

Lin Feng laughed and said, "If so, let us be on our way." The Black Dragon Jieyu beneath him let loose a long howl as it brought Lin Feng and company back into the air.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster did not dare to step up. No matter how docile the Jieyu seemed in front of Lin Feng, it was ultimately a Demonic Lord of the dragon tribe and its powers were as strong as his.

He could catch up as he flew alongside the Jieyu in a gust of azure mist. He was patient as he wanted to see what tricks Lin Feng had under his sleeve.

As they were travelling, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster gradually felt that something was wrong. Lin Feng's destination was,

surprisingly, Xiao Yan's hometown – Wuzhou City.

Xiao Yan peered at the city far away across the horizon and immediately recognized their destination as well. He could feel the warmth of his hometown and he turned towards Lin Feng, "Master?"

Lin Feng smiled faintly and replied, "It has been about three years since you've returned to Wuzhou City since joining my sect."

There was a saying that went, not going home to brag about your new riches is comparable to wearing silk clothes in the dark. Basically, it meant that now that one has achieved so much, it was only right to go back to flaunt your achievements and not let it go to waste.

Some people may perceive this way of thinking as shallow, but they could not dispute the fact that everybody fighting for a living elsewhere would want to return home at some point in time.

The allure was even greater if there was someone familiar back home.

Xiao Yan nodded his head lightly and said, "I wanted to tell you that I'm going to return to Wuzhou to visit my family after the battle at Xingyun Peak is over."

"Do you feel the suspense of the upcoming battle?" Lin Feng and Xiao Yan shared a laugh together.

The Jieyu flew over Wuzhou city and sent the citizens of the city into hysteria. The pressure from the arrival of a demonic lord-level demon was undeniably huge, and the cultivator of the highest level was the city mayor and he was only at the Aurous Core stage.

A middle-aged man in distinctly Chinese clothing flew up into the air and met with the people on the Jieyu. He greeted the incomers and probed their identities. "Are all of you from the Celestial Sect of Wonders? I am Li Yuncong, also the city mayor of Wuzhou City and I hereby welcome everyone into my humble city."

Lin Feng did not answer. Xiao Yan leapt down from the Jieyu, treaded on air and arrived in front of Li Yuncong and returned the greeting. "I am Xiao Yan of the Celestial Sect of Wonders. Thank you, Mayor Li."

Li Yuncong peered at Xiao Yan and silently approved of what he saw. "This must be the Celestial Sect of Wonders' big disciple Xiao Yan. He is indeed a cultivator of the Aurous Core stage. Rumour has it that he can put up a fight against a Nascent Soul stage grandmaster. I wonder if that's true?"

"Who would have thought that the Xiao Family could produce a character such as this." Li Yuncong was still quietly observing Xiao Yan. Even though he was also an Aurous Core stage cultivator, he could still feel the pressure from the intimidating aura that Xiao Yan emanated.

As for Lin Feng's complete disregard for him, Li Yuncong did not dare to show his displeasure but accepted that it was a natural thing to happen. He looked at Xiao Yan, then at Lin Feng, and released a quiet sigh. "The Celestial Sect of Wonders is indeed mysterious and unpredictable, with their sudden ascension and everything."

Then he turned towards the Azure Clouds Grandmaster. Even though he did not recognize the latter, he could definitely feel the enormous waves of mana coming from him. As his vision shifted to the green clouds beneath the Azure Clouds Grandmaster, he made a guess at his identity. "I wonder which grandmaster from the Sword of Radiance Sect is here?"

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster replied plainly, "I am the Azure Clouds Grandmaster. Thank you for your courtesy, Mayor Li."

Li Yuncong immediately reacted and said, "Ah, it is the Azure Clouds Grandmaster. Welcome, welcome."

Xiao Yan suddenly voiced, "We're at Wuzhou City today because it was on the way to our real destination. We won't be staying long."

Li Yuncong nodded and smiled as he ushered his guests onward. "If that's the case, then I shall stop blabbering. Everyone, please." Li Yuncong definitely had a decent emotional quotient as the leader of the city and left the scene with no further delay.

Xiao Yan was from Wuzhou City and thus needed no other

guidance and direction.

Whether it was Lin Feng, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster, the Black Dragon Jieyu or even Xiao Yan, Tun Tun or Xiao Budian, Li Yuncong had no power to stop them even if they wanted to flatten Wuzhou City. He refused to worry himself over something he had no control over.

"It should be okay. The Celestial Sect of Wonders should be happy with the current arrangement." Li Yuncong wiped his sweat and congratulated himself for following through with Prince Chong Yun's instructions perfectly.

Li Yuncong was congratulating himself on the other side while Xiao Yan was watching his old home. He was a little dazed and he glanced left and right to make sure he did not get his address wrong.

The problem was, the Xiao family house before him was nothing like it was when Xiao Yan left all those years ago. Their estate seemed to have expanded by more than twice its original size.

The brick walls, doors, the pavilions and the courtyards had all been renovated. In fact, the aforementioned items were still undergoing development and expansion. Some of the small buildings and pavilions had foundations that originally belonged to his neighbours.

The entire Xiao family estate was being developed and swallowed much of the nearby land.

The entrance to the mansion was filled with a row of people patiently waiting there. They were the members of the Xiao family who were secretly informed by Li Yuncong, and they all wore bright smiles and exhibited warm dispositions as they all waited to get close to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan frowned at the sight, however. He recognized every single face but they all looked like strangers at this moment.

He reminisced some of his old but not so memorable memories. From what he remembered, he had only seen all these smiling faces when he was only twelve years old.

The Xiao Yan back then had yet to destroy himself over Yan Mingyue and Tun Tun. He was still the star of Wuzhou City and the child prodigy with a reputation all over the eastern regions of the Great Qin Empire.

It was a pity that the big change occurred when he was twelve. His mastery and cultivation regressed overnight and his decadence was of his own volition.

In his memory, from that point onwards, all the smiling faces around him began to disappear and those who remained harboured pitiful and regretful attitudes toward him. There even people that mocked and laughed at him.

Xiao Yan's eyes grew ever colder.

"Love needs a reason, and hate needs a reason as well," Lin Feng's words suddenly rang loud in his head. "You are not the Xiao Yan of old and the times have changed. It is normal if the others have changed their attitude towards you."

"Do not let the judgments of others affect your emotional state of mind."

Xiao Yan was momentarily stunned and nodded his head.

"Thank you for your advice, master. I was wrong before."

He turned to look at the audience with renewed attitude and with a far more composed state of mind. Of course, he was not about to feel elated at the sight of the smiling faces of the welcoming party.

Xiao Yan's own grandfather was the leader of the Xiao Family. When both of Xiao Yan's parents perished and his powers regressed overnight into nothingness, he was one of the only few who had always cared about him.

He knew that his grandfather had received a lot of pressure from the other elders in the family because he had always doted on Xiao Yan. Even so, his grandfather never complained about it and was always silently taking care of his dear grandson.

When his mastery and skills regressed, the old leader of the Xiao family was one of the only few warm influences left in his life.

Murong Yanran's rejection of the marriage humiliated his grandfather. The marriage was an arrangement he made together with Murong Yanran's grandfather.

"Grandfather, I'm back!" Xiao Yan leapt down onto the ground and hurriedly knelt down in front of his grandfather. Ever since his parents perished, his grandfather was the only one that commanded such respect from him other than Lin Feng.

The old leader of the Xiao Family did not have the same elation on his face, however. His face had a look of deep but natural emotion and he gazed into Xiao Yan's eyes with a look of warmth. He patted Xiao Yan on the shoulder and whispered, "My good child, my good child..."

Xiao Yan stood up and a smiling Lin Feng stepped out from behind him.

"Grandfather, this is my master!"

The old leader of the Xiao Family hurriedly greeted Lin Feng. "Hello, leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders. A great many thanks for talking care of my grandchild!"

Lin Feng smiled faintly and replied, "You don't have to be so polite. As a teacher, I can only do so much and it's all up to the disciple and I can't change decaying wood into a crystal jade. Xiao Yan is a rare prodigy."

Except, his words sounded terribly modest. The youngsters of the Xiao Family all peered at Xiao Yan and Lin Feng and began to fantasize about being one of Lin Feng's disciples as well and, they too, could reach heights like Xiao Yan did.

Everybody had exchanged their greetings and the impatient Xiao Yan began to tug on his grandfather's sleeve. "Grandfather, is Zhener not here?"

Of the entire Xiao Family, the only two people that Xiao Yan cared about the most were his grandfather and Xiao Zhener.

The old leader of the Xiao Family heaved a sigh and replied, "You should know that Xiao Zhener was never really from the Xiao Family. Her real biological family came down a year ago to pick her up and took her away from Wuzhou City."

Xiao Yan was greatly disappointed by this piece of news. Anybody could see the despair on his face.

"She left this for you," the old leader of the Xiao Family tapped his grandson's hand and retrieved a small pouch. "I can tell that she really missed you. She was thinking about hanging around in Wuzhou City to wait for you but seemed to have something else on her mind. Don't blame her."

Xiao Yan took the silk pouch and pinched on it a few times. He could feel the texture of a paper letter within and his head drooped.

Lin Feng's gaze swept the estate of the Xiao Mansion and suddenly said, "Old Leader Xiao, the materials you are using to develop and renovate seem a little unusual."

Old Leader Xiao was afraid of his family giving Lin Feng a bad impression because this would affect Xiao Yan negatively and immediately replied, "Many of these materials are indeed relatively exotic and rare. They were all gifts from the crown prince of the Great Qin Empire, Prince Chong Yun. We could not possibly say no."

Lin Feng did not show express any emotion but a faint grin on his face.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster was a little shocked, however. He scrutinized every inch of the Xiao Mansion and he descended into deep thought.

Chapter 243: The Confusion

"Is it a gift from Prince Chong Yun?" The Azure Clouds Grandmaster was a little surprised and asked to confirm the fact.

Elder Tribe Leader Xiao did not want to patronize the Azure Clouds Grandmaster and hurriedly tried to explain.

According to Elder Xiao, Prince Chong Yun took special care of the Xiao family. With his support, the Xiao family's prowess improved day by day. They dominated the other reputable families in Wuzhou that were previously competing with them to create a hegemony in the region.

Xiao Yan suddenly realized that something was wrong. He peered at his grandfather and asked, "Grandfather, you've reached the Aurous Core stage? I almost failed to notice."

Before he left Wuzhou in the company of Lin Feng, Elder Xiao was only in the final levels of the foundation establishment stage. Even though he had already consolidated and refined the crucible, old age robbed him of his energy and livelihood, thus severely hindering his chances of advancing to the Aurous Core stage.

Elder Xiao seemingly understood what Xiao Yan meant and laughed as he said, "Prince Chong Yun bestowed upon me the Barrier-breaking Elixir and the Sky-piercing Elixir. Thus, I managed to break through the bottleneck to advance to the Aurous Core stage after consuming those pills. Furthermore, it was a green one.

Upon hearing his words, there was no change in the Azure Clouds Grandmaster's expression, but a little bit of gloom could be seen in his eyes.

"Prince Chong Yun must have discovered the planned marriage with Yanran. Yet, from the looks of it, he doesn't want to ruin his relationship with the Celestial Sect of Wonders," the Azure Clouds Grandmaster thought to himself. "Perhaps giving the Xiao family preferential treatment was just a measure to compensate Xiao Yan."

"However, it is a problem if he simply wants to form a rapport with the Celestial Sect of Wonders and he has no thoughts about leaving Yanran as a mistress."

Prince Chong Yun agreed to the marriage but the bride had disappeared. Even if it were the Sword of Radiance Sect, they had to contemplate the consequences for releasing the Crown Prince of the Great Qin Empire's dove. If Prince Chong Yun declined the offer of marriage, then the pressure from the Great Qin Empire would be non-existent. Even so, Lin Feng and Xiao Yan's return to follow through with the battle was another problem altogether.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster was fraught with agony and anxiety while the corner of Lin Feng's mouth curved upwards into a faint grin.

There was something weird with this smile.

"Indeed, the Great Qin Empire does not intent to challenge me outright or force the issue. I just thought the idea was originally that of their new prime minister."

Lin Feng still harbored some suspicions. "How could it be Prince Chong Yun's order?"

Lin Feng consolidated the information he obtained from all sorts of avenues and formed a vivid impression of Prince Chong Yun of the Great Qin Empire.

He was arrogant, overbearing, slightly stubborn, had a strong desire for possession and a relentless perseverance and determination to reach his goal.

These kinds of characteristics, strictly speaking, did not adhere to the standards expected by the masses.

If not for the Qin Emperor's lack of another son, Prince Chong Yun might have had great difficulty ascending to the status of Crown Prince.

Prince Chong Yun had always been like this. After combining information from various sources over the years, the possibility of him putting up a pretence had been eliminated.

His current actions, which were conspicuous moves to strike a camaraderie with the Celestial Sect of Wonders, were at odds with his usual style, personality and way of doing things.

This confused Lin Feng a little. "Interesting. What is he thinking?"

Maybe he wished to compensate Xiao Yan for taking in Murong Yanran as his side mistress?

Or perhaps there was no intention to complete the marriage with the Sword of Radiance Sect in the first place. Maybe he just wanted to build a healthy relationship with the Celestial Sect of Wonders?

"Interesting." Lin Feng smiled. The whole idea of coming to Wuzhou City was to glimpse the state of the Xiao family and make a judgment on the Great Qin Empire's attitude.

Yet, there were still a little bit of confusions and contradictions about the whole thing.

If Prince Chong Yun decided to take Murong Yanran in as a side mistress and was willing to bear the burdens of the Sword of Radiance Sect after the fact, then Lin Feng would definitely continue to hold onto Murong Yanran.

The Sword of Radiance Sect had already released the Crown Prince's dove. Let them slowly sort it out on their own.

If Prince Chong Yun never had the intention to take Murong Yanran in as a mistress, then her disappearance would be a satisfactory outcome for him. He would eventually meet with the

regretful and guilty Sword of Radiance Sect, and when that happened he could display his magnanimity and tolerance to bring the Sword of Radiance deeper under his wing.

There seemed to be a layer of mist in front of Lin Feng and he could feel a flickering pair of eyes scrutinizing him from deep within.

"Is it you, Wu Qingrou, the new prime minister of the Great Qin Empire?" Lin Feng laughed softly as he deliberated.

You have your ideas and I have mine. We will see.

As per Xiao Yan's intentions, they were just passing by Wuzhou City. Not before long, Xiao Yan bid Elder Tribe Leader Xiao farewell and they were on their way back to Xingyun Peak of the Sword of Radiance Sect.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster became increasingly restless and worried as Xingyun Peak loomed bigger and bigger. All of a sudden, a stunned expression flashed across his face.

Initially, he thought he was just too worried and thus his senses were hindered and his rationality was compromised. The Azure Clouds Grandmaster released another stream of his psychic sense and, after careful searching, betrayed further astonishment.

He realized that Murong Yanran, whom he had been trying to find for days, was actually perched atop a small hill in the

immediate proximity of Xingyun Peak; she was right under the noses of the Sword of Radiance Sect this whole time.

She seemed, however, to have slipped into a coma and she was unconscious.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster peeked at Lin Feng. Lin Feng's expression was still normal, as if nothing had happened or he was simply unaware of whatever that was happening.

Even though he had a stomach full of questions, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster heaved a sigh of relief. He sent another stream of his mana to the small mountain and whisked Murong Yanran away.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster appeared composed on the surface as if nothing was happening as he showed Lin Feng around and introduced Xingyun Peak's sceneries. At the same time, he was releasing a stream of sword Qi to stimulate Murong Yanran to wake her up.

Murong Yanran woke up to a patch of green as she was enveloped in a cloud of green mist. Within the cloud of green mist generated by his mana, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster appeared in front of her in the form of a hologram, expressionless.

"Greetings, master." Murong Yanran said as she knelt down in front of him.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster said plainly, "You could have just

told me or Tong Ling if you are not willing to marry into the royal family. No one will force you."

Murong Yanran had already returned to a state of composure and replied softly, "I don't know what got into me before. I can see it now. I understand that I have committed a huge mistake and I am willing to bear whatever punishment that is necessary."

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster shook his head. The main thing is, he found Murong Yanran and any punishment of whatever kind could be sorted out later. For now, he was concerned about something else.

"Tell me all that has happened since you left Xingyun Peak. Leave no details out."

Lin Feng did not remove Murong Yanran's memory of meeting him. He knew that doing so could hurt her soul and her mental state and thus could potentially leave traces of tampering behind that would have exposed him.

Even if the Azure Clouds Grandmaster could not tell, the Nascent Soul stage cultivators of the Sword of Radiance Sect could definitely see it.

Lin Feng had plans of his own. He had no qualms about the Sword of Radiance Sect knowing what had happened or was going to happen. As for their suspicions as to why he sent Murong Yanran back, he was not going to help allay them and they could guess all they want.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster could already feel the depths of his brain hurting. He squinted at Murong Yanran and frowned as he said, "So you're saying that the Celestial Sect of Wonders had already guessed that it was possible that Prince Chong Yun could take you in as a mistress?"

"If that's the case, he still let you go by his own volition?"

Murong Yanran had already accepted the fact of the marriage and was more or less at peace with the fact. "Even though he didn't expressly state that conclusion, one could infer from his tone and sentences that he thinks I should marry Prince Chong Yun."

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster was perplexed once again. He was most afraid of Lin Feng finding out about the whole thing along with him taking Murong Yanran hostage and going up Xingyun Peak to look for her.

By the time Prince Chong Yun came around looking for trouble, the pressure from both sides would spell disaster for the Sword of Radiance Sect.

However, the fact that Lin Feng sent Murong Yanran back on his own accord perplexed the Azure Clouds Grandmaster.

"Forget it. Let's return to the mountain first." The Azure Clouds Grandmaster could not figure it out so he might as well not think about it. He intended to report his findings to the elders back in the mountain and brainstorm together.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster's silent retrieval of Murong Yanran fell into the eyes of Lin Feng. His mouth curved into a smile as he peered towards the horizon and said, "Is that Xingyun Peak?"

In the distance, a single peak that was faintly golden in color unassumingly stood out from the rest of corrugated peaks.

This golden peak did not have the majestic and staid feel like the rest. It seemed to give an aura similar to that of floating clouds.

One could almost see the cliffs at the edge of the peak morphing and changing to its environment.

Yet, Lin Feng could feel a sharp essence of swordplay within the inner sections of the peak; it was one of unpredictable change and undeniable radiance, and between the movement of the clouds there seemed to be an aura of limitless and sparkling sword luminescence.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster smiled and replied, "This is Xingyun Peak, the mountain entrance to my Sect. After you, Master Lin."

In the blink of an eye, a great mass of misty clouds barreled forward and immediately split apart like the dawn of the rising sun in a clear sky. A flight of stairs flashed in a streak of golden light and extended in front of Lin Feng and company.

On the other side of the staircase stood seven people. There were fat and skinny ones, tall and short ones, male and female ones, but every single one of them possessed an intimidating and overwhelming aura of mana as if it could rip the sky apart at any moment.

One could not detect any kind of hostility from them. They withheld their sword auras, but just seeing them standing there gave onlookers an immense and blinding pressure.

Seven Nascent Soul stage cultivators came forward personally to welcome their guests.

It seemed to Lin Feng that the seven elders wanted to receive him courteously and display their prowess at the same time. Lin Feng also knew that the number of nascent soul stage cultivators, including the Azure Clouds Grandmaster beside him, exceeded the number that was currently present.

Lin Feng glanced upwards. The seven individuals seemed to have integrated with the void as one and were in a state of transcendence. This was the characteristic of attaining the pinnacle mantra and achieving a high level of mastery in the Sword of Radiance Sect.

What bothered Lin Feng more was that he seemed to feel a fierce and unmoving consciousness scrutinizing him from Xingyun Peak.

The strength of this consciousness gave Lin Feng a feeling of

trepidation and uneasiness. There was no doubt that the only person that could pressure him as such was the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster of the Immortal Soul stage.

Of the seven nascent soul stage grandmasters, a middle-aged and scholar-looking grandmaster smiled as he said, "We are glad to witness the arrival of the leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders. We have been giving orders by the master of my sect to receive you. Please forgive us if there was anything of inconvenience."

Lin Feng smiled but did not move, and looked towards Xiao Budian, who was beside him.

Xiao Budian immediately understood Lin Feng's intentions. He chuckled and took point as he walked forward.

Chapter 244: The Supreme Radiance

Swordmaster

Seven Nascent Soul stage elders of the Sword of Radiance Sect on receiving duties was a display of respect and strength.

Lin Feng smiled at the sight but did not move. He looked towards Xiao Budian who instantly understood what his master meant. Xiao Budian chuckled and poked the Black Dragon Jieyu with his toes.

Lin Feng, Xiao Yan, Tun Tun and Yue Hongyan removed themselves from the body of the Jieyu. Xiao Budian, steering the Black Dragon Jieyu by himself, proceeded alone towards the transparent staircase made of golden light.

Xiao Budian's voice was not yet broken at this point in time and his childish voice remained still clear and charming. "I am Shi Tianhao of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, and I come forth on behalf of my master to give my greetings and respect to the elders of the Sword of Radiance Sect."

The Jieyu did not say anything as its body roosted atop the golden staircase and let loose a deep howl. The dragon's ferocity and feral dominance were on full display as its movements created ripples along the golden staircase as if it were a flowing river.

Individuals of the dragon race were born superior to humans. The Jieyu, which was a demonic lord and had already attained the Demon Soul, faced the seven Nascent Soul stage Grandmasters of

the Sword of Radiance Sect with unwavering courage and fearlessness.

On the other side of the staircase, one of the Nascent Soul stage Grandmasters appeared a little unhappy while the scholar-looking Grandmaster beside him shook his head in disapproval.

He projected his voice to rest, "Do not be intimidated and lose our advantage."

There was a certain measure of hostility from the Jieyu but, in fact, it withheld its powers. It had the ability to shatter the golden light staircase but did not do so.

"Purple Cloud Grandmaster, let's not be viewed with condescension," the only female Grandmaster voiced out as she tapped her foot lightly on the staircase and channelled her mana within.

The trembling staircase stabilized in an instant. The Jieyu's eyes closed into a squint as it realized that it could no longer cause the golden staircase to move and shake no matter how much more force it injected.

The scene amused Lin Feng. "Cultivators of the Nascent Soul stage, I see. In that case, they are certainly stronger in terms of strength in mana than the Jieyu, which had only formed the Demon Soul in recent days. However, the strength of the Jieyu lies in its physical prowess – where the victor a real battle could be either party."

One of the sentient features of the cultivators in the initial level of the Nascent Soul stage was their ability to understand some of the mysteries of space and void.

Cultivators at the middle level could begin to imbue the Nine Heavens Clear Air within themselves and focused on improving their mana strength and mastery while nurturing the Nascent Soul.

After that, cultivators whose Nascent Souls had reached the next level could begin to experiment with the Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra. Once they had mastered the Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra, they would have reached the final level of the Nascent Soul stage.

The female Nascent Soul Grandmaster was a cultivator that had begun her intake and nurturing of the Nine Heavens Clear Air.

Atop the Jieyu, Xiao Budian gave his greetings with a cheeky and mischievous smile. "I am Shi Tianhao of the Celestial Sect of Wonders and I hereby give my cordial greeting."

As he opened his mouth, his voice furiously exuded spiritual energy and the majestic and unstoppable momentum whirled forward, turning many heads of even the Nascent Soul cultivators.

The middle-aged scholar-looking Grandmaster's eyes sparkled as he pondered, "The Azure Clouds Grandmaster indeed did not overestimate them. This guy's ability is indeed impressive. With

the help of a magic treasure of the Nascent Soul stage, he could possibly take a Nascent Soul stage cultivator head-on."

Xiao Budian was only in the initial level of the Aurous Core stage, and could not yet manipulate the natural spiritual energy of the world. If he could do so, the plentitude of his mana pool would have had been even more intimidating and powerful.

Upon reaching the middle level of the Aurous Core stage, just his mana pool alone could match that of a Nascent Soul stage cultivator.

The Purple Cloud Grandmaster's brows curled into a frown. "His possession of such an impressive mana pool without using the Great Chaos Primordial Water is indeed a rare sight. From what I have heard, Xiao Yan's powers and abilities were as good as his, if not better. The Sword of Radiance Sect is indeed facing a tough problem this time."

The display of dominance from their formation, which included the Azure Clouds Grandmaster and the seven others, was offset by just one person and a dragon.

Even so, the Jieyu was only in the infant stages of the Demonic Lord and had only recently formed the demon soul; it could not yet be considered a full-fledged being of the dragon race.

The Purple Cloud Grandmaster, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster and company were revered seniors in the Sword of Radiance Sect who bore executive positions. On the other hand, the Jieyu was

only, put bluntly, Lin Feng's mount!

Xiao Budian was just starting out in the Aurous Core stage. Bar the Grandmasters, there were still a great many Aurous Core foundational stage cultivators within the Sword of Radiance Sect.

However, forming the Aurous Core at such a young age and possessing enough combat ability to challenge a Nascent Soul Grandmaster showed undeniable talent. An individual with such potential was a rare occurrence – how many could there be elsewhere in the world, let alone the Sword of Radiance Sect?

The Purple Cloud Grandmaster heaved a sigh of envy but was also a little excited and eager to witness the development of such a prodigious kid. "I heard this kid is on par with the legendary prodigy Shi Tianyi of the Great Qin Empire's Shi family. I wonder what the outcome would be if they faced each other off?"

In actual fact, the elders of the Sword of Radiance Sect were only fearful and impressed by Xiao Budian's potential. Even though he could give the Nascent Soul Grandmasters some pressure, he was, undoubtedly, still no match for them.

Xiao Budian was only in his childhood days, and a dead prodigy would never be a true prodigy.

It was the same logic with Xiao Yan, who was the source of the Sword of Radiance Sect's headaches in recent days.

Yet, as the Nascent Soul Grandmasters glanced at the calm and composed Lin Feng at the side, everyone sighed in resignation.

This man was the key.

With such a master protecting them, the average person had no chance to cripple Xiao Budian or Xiao Yan in their adolescent days.

The Red Cloud Grandmaster, the only female in the group, exchanged looks with the Purple Cloud Grandmaster as their moods dropped and their hearts sank.

Lin Feng personally accompanied Xiao Yan to settle the bill with the Sword of Radiance Sect. Everybody in the Sword of Radiance Sect had considered forcefully preventing them from leaving, perhaps at a bloody cost.

In the end, they could only sit on the mountain and wait for Lin Feng to come forward. Even if Lin Feng had the ability to challenge the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster of the Sword of Radiance Sect, there was only one path he could go if he came to the Sword of Radiance Sect.

With the help of Xingyun Peak's geographical advantage, the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster was not afraid of other cultivators of equal standard as he could execute the Mountain Defence Spell Formation to its maximum effectiveness.

However, no one in the Sword of Radiance Sect was confident of

facing Lin Feng alone.

On one hand, Lin Feng's mastery was a mystery to all and outsiders had no idea what his background and history was.

On the other hand, Mount Yujing could break the time-space continuum. If the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster wanted to tap on their geographical advantages, Lin Feng could summon Mount Yujing with a single thought. If that happened, it would just be an offensive magic formation versus a mountain defense magic formation.

In other words, Lin Feng was not afraid to be deep into an enemy or foreign territory as he could offset any geographical disadvantages with a single thought and convert the scene to a neutral battleground.

He could even convert it to his own turf.

"A guest has arrived from a faraway land. Why don't you come in and meet us, Master Lin."

Suddenly, an illusory voice resembling that of smoke and clouds echoed from Xingyun Peak. The tone was one of indifference and simplicity but carried an undertone of piercing radiance.

Lin Feng smiled and replied, "You're way too polite, Leader of the Sword of Radiance Sect."

As soon as he finished his sentence, Lin Feng took Xiao Budian, Xiao Yan and company through the layers of misty clouds and landed on Xingyun Peak.

There was an array of intricate temples and buildings at the summit of the mountain. A middle-aged man clad in a white shirt stood at the entrance of the basilica.

Lin Feng's expression was calm as he sized up this middle-aged man.

This man had the face of a crown jewel and long black hair like a storm. Lin Feng estimated his age to be around forty, give or take, but long strands of white hair extended from his temples.

There was an unassailable dignity and prestige in his eyes.

Even though they had never met, Lin Feng was sure that this middle-aged man was the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster of the Sword of Radiance and he had already attained the Immortal Soul.

This person did not seem to exude any special aura or pressure. Yet, just by standing there, he seemed to integrate with Heaven and Earth, and even then he seemed like he transcended the mortal world into the great beyond. Lin Feng watched him but he felt like he could not pinpoint the material position of his body.

This was the first time since reaching the Nascent Soul stage did Lin Feng experience this kind of feeling.

The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster was observing Lin Feng at the same time. What bothered him, however, was that despite his standard and his level he could not fathom Lin Feng's level of mastery.

Lin Feng was definitely not a normal individual without any experience in practising mantra. Yet, upon reaching the level of the Immortal Soul, any magic item or spell for masking one's mastery was completely ineffective.

"Master Lin's intention of coming to Xingyun Peak is to follow through with the gamble?" The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster's voice was serene but his speech was completely unmasked and sufficiently embodied the radiant essence of a sword cultivator.

At his level, masking anything was unnecessary. He could do as he liked and go as he pleased.

Lin Feng showed no weakness and replied with a faint smile, "I wonder what do you have in mind?"

The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster did not reply and just peered at Lin Feng. His gaze grew more piercing with each passing moment.

Lin Feng's gaze was the opposite. The spark in his eyes gradually disappeared and became one of gloom. He matched the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster's gaze but somehow instilled increasing wariness in the latter.

The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster understood Lin Feng's intentions. The battle was bound to happen and Lin Feng would not put his disciple in a spot.

After a long moment, the radiance in the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster's eyes, which resembled that of the tip of a sword, was slowly withdrawn and he nodded his head in approval. "If that's the case, let our disciples compete with their skills."

Lin Feng nodded his head lightly and replied, "Yes, I agree."

All of a sudden, the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster's direction of speech took a turn and he said, "However, the contents and stakes of the bet will affect other people."

Lin Feng remained composed as the corner of his mouth curved into a grin. "Is he not here already?"

As he was speaking, immense waves of force and power spiralled forth from beyond the horizon – it was headed directly for Xingyun Peak.

The arriving party stopped just outside of Xingyun Peak. A shrill voice much alike rubbing metal plates could be heard, saying, "The Great Qin Empire's Prince Chong Yun is here to visit. May I cordially invite the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster of the Sword of Radiance Sect to come and meet him?"

The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster waved his finger and the mass of mist and clouds dispersed, revealing a company of people.

The foremost person had a royal demeanor. He was not particularly handsome and had skin the color of charcoal, but he emanated an overbearing aura – one felt like he had dominion over all life.

He was clad in an orange robe and his sleeves were embroidered with the Five-Claws True Dragon and not the Four-Claws Serpent. In comparison to the robe of the emperor, his robe had only four dragons and was orange in colour while the emperor's had nine dragons and was bright yellow.

This was the trademark dressing of the Crown Prince of the Great Qin Empire.

His identity was clear as crystal – Prince Chong Yun of the Great Qin Empire had arrived.

Chapter 245: Tit For Tat

Lin Feng watched Prince Chong Yun saunter over and laughed under his breath. He voice-projected a message to Xiao Yan, "Xiao Yan, this is your rival in love."

Xiao Yan looked stunned. "Zhener and him...?"

"This has nothing to do with Xiao Zhener." Lin Feng was a little surprised at Xiao Yan's reaction as well but recovered quickly. He laughed as he said, "This is the fiancée the Sword of Radiance Sect has arranged for Murong Yanran. Of course, whether or not he wants Murong Yanran is another thing altogether."

Xiao Yan's personality was usually rather straightforward but also highly intelligent. He had already understood what the Sword of Radiance had in mind with only a little bit of prodding from Lin Feng.

"Master, what do you think?" Xiao Yan's eyes sparkled but withheld his attitude towards the issue and just sought Lin Feng's opinion.

Even though this suggested that the goal that he had so dearly sought after for three years may be hindered, Xiao Yan remained calm. He would still consider Lin Feng's opinions carefully.

Lin Feng smiled faintly and said, "Xiao Yan, you have to remember that disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders cannot be greedy, but we pay back the debts that we owe."

Xiao Yan contemplated Lin Feng's words. "Over at Wuzhou City...?"

Lin Feng replied, "That may not be of Prince Chong Yun's making. It's quite likely someone else was doing it using his name."

Upon hearing his master's words, Xiao Yan chortled. "I'm relieved if you meant what you have just said."

While Lin Feng was communicating with Xiao Yan using voice-projection, he was also observing Prince Chong Yun and company.

Ignoring his personality, Prince Chong Yun's natural talent and prowess matched his status as the crown prince of the Great Qin Empire.

His real age naturally did not match up with his appearance, which was one of a youth, but he was definitely not too senior.

In comparison to the realm of the Nascent Soul stage cultivators, Prince Chong Yun's age was actually considered very young.

Lin Feng could sense an aura of pressurizing and arousing mana coming from him. Even though it was as veiled and obscure as it could possibly be, it definitely existed.

"Magic treasure?" Lin Feng instantly understood. As the crown

prince of the Great Qin Empire, the royal family would be expected to bestow magic treasures as safeguards or as a form of protection.

This particular magic treasure ability to mask was extremely effective. The average Nascent Soul stage cultivator would not be able to detect anything. Only individuals of the Immortal Soul or special cultivators like Lin Feng could pick up on the minute details.

Thoughts spun around Lin Feng's head as he arrived at the crux of the issue. "The effectiveness of this magic treasure is not due to its low-key nature. Instead, it is because its characteristics complemented that of its owner, Prince Chong Yun. The complementary energies of the magic treasure and the user were able to fool the average person."

Prince Chong Yun emanated an aura of the True Dragon Prince but it was not strong enough. The most conspicuous dispositions one could pick up from Prince Chong Yun was that he was an immensely invasive predator; he was greedy, tyrannical and had an enterprising vitality of extreme ambition.

It was as if he wanted to take all the good things in the world for himself and believed that was the way it should be.

There was no wonder that a person like this was disliked by the majority of the people in the Great Qin Empire, and most of them hoped that he would not ascend to the throne as the Qin Emperor.

Since the essence of the magic treasure was so complementary to

the sentient features of Prince Chong Yun's personality, it must be one of relative ferocity and brutality.

"However, how could such a magic treasure be suitable as an amulet for the crown prince of the Great Qin Empire? Did he choose it for himself?" Lin Feng mulled over the facts. "There must be something else going on here, or maybe he still has another trump card he has yet to show?"

Behind Prince Chong Yun stood a group of servants in black armor. Every single one of them was silent but one could tell from the ripples of mana that the weakest individual among their ranks was already an Aurous Core stage cultivator.

Prince Chong Yun indeed displayed great power with a personal guard formation of individuals who were at least Aurous Core stage cultivators.

Yet, even with Prince Chong Yun included, the whole party attracted only roughly a third of Lin Feng's attention. A good chunk of his attention was concentrated on an elderly figure beside Prince Chong Yun.

Even though this elderly figure stood behind Prince Chong Yun, he wore an expression of indifference and calm independence and did not seem to be Prince Chong Yun's follower.

His long robe was embroidered and embellished with multiple diagrams of star constellations of such intricacy that they seemed to come alive under the shine of the Sun. It appeared as if the

constellations were moving on their own accord and one could derive from them the most profound and mysterious principles of the universe.

Even though he was standing atop the summit of Xingyun Peak, it seemed as though he had transcended this part of the world into the universe above, and was peering down at the mortal world.

Lin Feng's eyes squinted slightly. "An Immortal Soul stage cultivator! Prince Chong Yun actually has an immortal soul cultivator following him around as a bodyguard?"

Naturally, this elderly figure could not possibly be Shi Chongyun's follower, even if Shi Chongyun was the crown prince of the Great Qin empire.

The only possibility was that this elderly figure was the enshrined champion of the Great Qin empire, and was accompanying and protecting Prince Chong Yun at the Qin emperor's request.

The great immortal soul cultivators could not be ordered around, even by the Qin Emperor. They could only be approached for help in return for something else.

The Qin royal family's financial background could still afford to hire a person like this.

The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster also noticed the elderly

figure at once. He even seemed to recognize the latter. "Ah, it's the Stellar Holy Man. I thought you were living the life out at Xiling City? What changed your mind?"

The Stellar Holy Man smiled and replied, "I have not seen you in a while, the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster. Prince Chong Yun wanted to come here so I took the initiative to accompany him."

"I am flattered," the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster nodded his head and greeted Prince Chong Yun before turning to Lin Feng. "Master Lin, let me introduce you to the crown prince of the Great Qin Empire, Prince Chong Yun, and this is the Stellar Holy Man."

Prince Chong Yun's eyes circulated around Lin Feng and company and his gaze stopped at Yue Hongyan. There was no attempt to mask the invasive nature of his vision.

The aura produced by his Nascent Soul stage abilities could not pass Lin Feng, who was standing in front of Yue Hongyan, and hence, he was unable to pressure the latter. Yue Hongyan met his gaze fearlessly with a cold look and a pair of red eyebrows which resembled the color of two swords after killing a man.

Prince Chong Yun chuckled and turned to look at Lin Feng. The grating voice that sounded like two pieces of metal scraping against each other once again rang out to say, "This must be the leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, Master Lin? Your reputation precedes you."

Lin Feng had no interest to entertain such a self-centered person.

Instead, he turned to the Stellar Holy Man and said, "It's a pleasure to meet you."

Prince Chong Yun's eyebrows bundled into a frown and a dark and gloomy aura began to flow from within him as he glared at Lin Feng.

The Stellar Holy Man remained expressionless as he glanced towards Prince Chong Yun. "Master Lin's reputation in recent times has shocked the world, indeed."

Lin Feng could clearly read an undertone of sarcasm and smiled as he replied, "It's okay if you get used to it."

The eyes of the Stellar Holy Man abruptly exploded with brilliance, much like a supernova or an exploding star. He stared at Lin Feng for a moment before nodding and said, "I hope so."

Prince Chong Yun was still glaring at Lin Feng and the energies coming from his body was increasingly hostile. However, his concentration was forcefully shifted to the other side.

A youth clad in purple clothing and a black robe stood beside Lin Feng and wore a faint smile on his face as he looked at Prince Chong Yun.

Prince Chong Yun observed him for a moment with a look of hostility and arrogance.

Xiao Yan returned his gaze with a similar look of indifference.

Prince Chong Yun turned to Lin Feng and asked, "They are the disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders? They have no sense of respect."

Lin Feng refused to answer and glanced towards the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster. "Those who have to be here are here. When do we start?"

"You..." Prince Chong Yun raised his eyebrows and was about to say something else when he was interrupted by Xiao Yan.

"Disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders have always been courteous and respectful, but only to people who are courteous and respectful as well. Otherwise, we don't care."

"Politeness is not so cheap."

Only now did Prince Chong Yun stare at Xiao Yan directly, yet it was not because he withdrew his arrogance.

Previously, he treated Xiao Yan with condescension and was too lazy to bother about Xiao Yan's disrespect, as if it were a human interacting with a dog.

Now, he was annoyed at the dog that was still barking non-stop and he was more than prepared to eliminate it.

Prince Chong Yun said coldly, "Master Lin, your disciple is way too boisterous and noisy. I have no choice but to kill him."

"You?" Xiao Yan scoffed and replied and his pupils lit up with enchanting fiery brilliance. One of it was golden in color while the other a bluish purple.

Prince Chong Yun became more solemn only after he witnessed the golden and purple flames. He nodded and said, "So you are Xiao Yan. To wield the Grand Sun Primordial Flame and the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Flame at the same time is no easy task. You are indeed special."

After the battle at Shazhou, the reputations of the disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders spread across the region. The intelligence branch of the Great Qin Empire was also highly efficient, thus Prince Chong Yun naturally enjoyed information first-hand.

However, his arrogance remained. He continued apathetically, "Yet you are only at the Aurous Core stage. You still pale in comparison."

Lin Feng was rather amused by the attitude Xiao Yan was giving to Prince Chong Yun, and thought to himself, "It looks as if the benefits received by the Xiao family of Wuzhou City was not of Prince Chong Yun's doing. It even seems as if he doesn't know a thing about it."

"Heh heh, this is getting more interesting."

If Lin Feng did not say anything, then the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster, the Purple Cloud Grandmaster and the Azure Clouds Grandmaster certainly remained silent. The scene unfolding in front of them was the outcome of their dreams.

Murong Yanran was yet to be dragged into the picture and Prince Chong Yun was already at odds with Xiao Yan. Things were so smooth that the Azure Clouds Grandmaster began to suspect if things were too good to be true and there was something fishy going on.

"The Prince was too fast, it took me a long while to catch up."

All of a sudden, a voice could be heard from beyond the horizon. "I am Tan Yingjie, and hereby give my greetings to the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster, the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders and the Stellar Holy Man."

"Tan Yingjie?" The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster and the Stellar Holy Man exchanged glances, and it appeared that they heard this name before. The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster coolly said, "Xingyun Peak is so lively and happening today."

He swiped his finger across the air and the clouds dissipated once again. A middle-aged man in a blue coat dropped from the sky, and the ripples in the air caused by his mana suggested he was a Nascent Soul stage cultivator.

As Tan Yingjie touched down, he greeted Lin Feng, the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster and the Stellar Holy Man once again.

Prince Chong Yun frowned as Tan Yingjie showed up. "Tan Yingjie, what are you doing here? Was it by Prime Minister Wu's orders?"

Tan Yingjie laughed and replied, "I was indeed under the instruction of Prime Minister Wu to pass something to the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster, nothing else. Do not worry, my prince."

He looked at Lin Feng with a smile on his face. "However, it looks like something interesting is going down. I wonder if I have the honour to watch from the side?"

Lin Feng eyed Tan Yingjie in silence. At the same time, he received a message from the Black Dragon Jieyu by voice-projection. "Master, this person's surname is Tan and he has intricate connections with the Great Qin Empire. It is very likely that he belonged to the Tan family, one of the seven great families of the Ancient Yuantian World."

Chapter 246: The Multiverse

"Master, this person's surname is Tan and he has intricate connections with the Great Qin Empire. It is very likely that he belongs to the Tan family, one of the seven great families of the Ancient Yuantian World."

Lin Feng squinted his eyes as he received the voice-projected message from the Black Dragon Jieyu.

He had never heard of the Tan family before. However, the Ancient Yuantian world rang a few bells.

The two main parts of the formation of the great Yuantian world was the Divine Lands, so it was called, and the Barren Expanses.

Surrounding these two Greater Worlds, with them as its core, were a myriad of other dimensional voids and planes. Together, they wholly formed the great Yuantian world.

There were dangerous voids with dimensional storms and chaotic voids that served as battlegrounds. There were also spaces where matter and energy were relatively more stable. In such dimensions, life was precious and minerals were cherished and thus were suitable for the existence of the human race or demonic tribes.

These kinds of dimensional planes were typically referred to as "Middle Worlds". There were many of them obscure and hidden within the dimensions; some had already been discovered and

were undergoing development, and some were still undiscovered and were just sitting there waiting for the fortunate explorer.

Such were the origins of the term: Multiverse.

After some millennia of development, the population of humans residing in the Greater World gradually increased and the number of cultivators rose as well.

Some resources for cultivation were recyclable or reusable, but some were non-renewable and the supplies would only dwindle upon continuous usage. Many such valuable resources and whatnot had become extinct in the Divine Lands and the Barren Expanses.

Yet, some of these resources could be found in the Middle Worlds. This was the reason why sects and factions put in so much effort to develop each and every Middle World. The Ancient Yuantian World was one such world and was also considered a relatively big one. It was named an ancient world because it had been excavated a millennium ago by human cultivators.

The seven big families of the Ancient Yuantian World were basically the most powerful and influential families in the Divine Lands and were also interest representatives of third parties in the latter.

For example, Tan Yingjie of the Tan Family represented the Great Qin Empire's interests in the Ancient Yuantian World.

Many resources had already been transferred from the Ancient Yuantian World to the Great Qin Empire via the Tan Family.

"This person claims to be sent by Wu Qingrou. It looks like Wu Qingrou's status in the Great Qin Empire is quite solid – he even wields influence over areas outside of their territories."

Tan Yingjie was polite but Lin Feng did not underestimate him. Even though quite a number of resources of the Divine Lands in the Middle Worlds were extinct, other planes tended to have their own dimensional laws.

The Ancient Yuantian World could provide subsistence for all things. However, strangely, it possessed normal thunder and lightning but lacked the void-piercing thunder tribulations.

This meant that the highest level that cultivators in the Ancient Yuantian World could reach was the ultimate stages of the Aurous Core stage and they were unable to advance to the Nascent Soul.

If cultivators in the Ancient Yuantian World wanted to obtain the Nascent Soul, they had to travel to the Divine Lands in the Greater World. This was the reason the Great Qin Empire had such influence over the seven big families of the Ancient Yuantian World, and not because their influence is that wide per se.

Cultivators who had reached the final stages of the Aurous Core stage usually arrived in the Greater World to experience thunder tribulations and form their Nascent Souls. However, their amounts and circumstances were largely controlled by the Great

Qin Empire; sanctions and rewards were also included, as per the current situation.

Tan Yingjie, now a Nascent Soul stage cultivator, remained at the Greater World instead of returning to the Ancient Yuantian World. This could suggest that he acted as the spokesperson for his family and the messenger between his family and the Great Qin Empire, thus his status could not have been low.

The fact that Wu Qingrou, the Prime Minister of the Great Qin Empire, had this person running errands for him impressed even Lin Feng.

Thoughts ran through Lin Feng's head as he continued to say, "You are too polite, my friend. I don't mind – but you have to ask the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster first."

Upon hearing Lin Feng's words, the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster's eyes flickered and replied, "I have no problem with you staying behind to witness the ceremony. What does Wu Qingrou want to give me?"

Prince Chong Yun turned towards Tan Yingjie and stared at him with an expressionless gaze.

Tan Yingjie shook his head. "I have no idea what the item is exactly. Prime Minister Wu said you will understand when you see it."

He subsequently retrieved a jade letter and courteously placed it in the hands of the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster.

Prince Chong Yun's eyed the jade letter and his eyes sparkled as if he knew something, but remained silent.

As the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster handled the jade letter, his actions slowed down a little bit. After a brief moment of silence, a strange expression came across his face and he nodded in response. "I will consider his opinions. I will reply him later."

Tan Yingjie laughed gleefully at his reply. "I am just a messenger, you don't have to be so modest."

His vision swept across towards Lin Feng and he smiled again before saying, "I have also come here to cordially invite the Sword of Radiance Sect and the Celestial Sect of Wonders, on behalf of Prime Minister Wu, to participate in the opening ceremony of the Ancient Huanghai World."

Lin Feng turned and glanced at the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster. The latter had a similar reaction and they exchanged a look before Lin Feng's gaze returned to Tan Yingjie. "One month later?"

The Ancient Huanghai World was similar to the Ancient Yuantian World; they were both Middle Worlds independent of the Greater World.

The dimensional laws of the Ancient Huanghai World were even stranger than that of the Ancient Yuantian World. The Ancient Huanghai World only allowed cultivators below the level of the Nascent Soul.

There was a typically functioning space-time portal connecting the Ancient Yuantian World and the Divine Lands but the connection between the Ancient Huanghai World and the Divine Lands was usually closed shut. One had to wait for a period of time before the entrance will open by itself.

The entrance to the Ancient Huanghai World lay near the northern border of the Great Qin Empire. After a prolonged period of fierce competition and fighting, the surrounding powers reluctantly conceded authority over the Ancient Huanghai World to the Great Qin Empire.

In exchange, the Great Qin Empire would have to host a ceremony, also known as the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai, when the entrance to the ancient world opened up.

The inauguration of the Spiritual Conference would see each and every participating sect and power send their sub-Nascent Soul stage champions to compete with one another for the privilege of passage into the Ancient Huanghai World. After years of development, the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai gradually became a grand event and something of a pageant. On many occasions, participants show up not for entry permission but simply took the chance to learn more about their rivals and about each other.

Tan Yingjie continued, "Yes, one month. Exactly thirty days later, the entrance to the Ancient Huanghai World will reopen."

"I would like to thank the Great Qin Empire for the invitation. If unforeseen circumstances do not occur then the Celestial Sect of Wonders will be there." Lin Feng nodded his head lightly and gave his confident reply. His main aim right now was to expand his sect's influence and reputation; he would definitely not let this chance slip through his fingers.

Lin Feng glanced at Prince Chong Yun out of the corner of his eye and suddenly realized that the Prince was a lot more composed and calmer than before.

Just as he heard Tan Yingjie declare Wu Qingrou's invitation for Lin Feng to attend the event, the Prince was initially stunned but flames subsequently poured out of his eyes.

This kind of anger was way stronger than the one he harbored previously against Xiao Yan.

This kind was dark, cold and full of murderous intentions.

It was apparent that Prince Chong Yun was completely unaware of Wu Qingrou's arrangement.

However, after the momentary fit of rage, Prince Chong Yun abruptly returned to a state of calm.

Prince Chong Yun did not display any attempt at protesting or whatnot against Wu Qingrou's decision to invite the Celestial Sect of Wonders and the Sword of Radiance Sect to the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai. It was as if the issue did not concern him at all.

Lin Feng was honestly surprised. Tan Yingjie was a little worried, however, as he recalled Wu Qingrou's instructions: "If the Prince developed any animosity or antagonized the Celestial Sect of Wonders or vice versa, you must declare the invitation immediately. Take heed, take heed."

"Prime Minister Wu... What you're doing is just fueling the fire!" Tan Yingjie sighed as he turned to look at Prince Chong Yun. He knew that he had to explain to the Prince later on, and that even though he had a look of cool temperament the Prince was breaking at the seams.

"According to previous information, Shi Chongyun is highly dominant and the weight of his words cannot be trifled with. But what is Prime Minister Wu trying to do now that he's patronizing the Prince?" Lin Feng contemplated whilst observing Tan Yingjie and Prince Chongyun. "Could it be that the Qin Emperor wants to elect a new crown prince? That's not quite possible, is it? He doesn't even have another son."

"Wait!" Lin Feng's pupils contracted rapidly. "The person that stole Xiao Budian's foundation of Tao, Shi Tianyi, has enjoyed some serious reputation in recent years and is touted to become the next legendary prodigy."

"Of the four big families of the Great Qin Empire, the Shi Family was the most special as they were a branch connected to the royal family by bloodline." Thoughts spun around Lin Feng's head in the blink of an eye. "If the Qin Emperor requests the adoption of Shi Tianyi into the royal family proper..."

As Lin Feng pondered on one side, the Sword of Radiance Sect gleefully accepted the Great Qin Empire's invitation.

The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster glanced at Lin Feng and then at Xiao Yan behind him before he said, "There are four more days before the arranged battle between your disciple and Murong Yanran. We will converge again four days later at this exact place for them to carry on. What do you think, Master Lin?"

"I remember the date very clearly." Lin Feng knew in his heart that the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster intended to execute some plans of his own in the next four days but he was unafraid. He turned to look at Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan looked serene and composed and gradually nodded his head. "I have no problem with it, master."

Lin Feng nodded his head in response and turned back towards the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster. "It will be as you've said."

"Please direct Master Lin and his disciples to the resting areas please, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster," the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster gave out his order blandly. The Azure Clouds Grandmaster bent over as a greeting and took Lin Feng and

company to the guest room.

Behind them, Prince Chong Yun was staring at Tan Yingjie with an expressionless look.

Lin Feng smiled and ceased to bother himself with what was going on. They leisurely followed the Azure Clouds Grandmaster to the guest pavilion and settled down.

Lin Feng extended his consciousness outside as he sat in the pavilion and saw Xiao Budian and Tuntun standing outside. Two pairs of eyes were scanning Xingyun Peak and they seemed like they were spying for something. Xiao Budian whispered, "Is there any nice food up at Xingyun Peak?"

Tuntun swallowed a ball of saliva and replied, "Of course there is. Everyone knows about the Red-Feathered Crane of the Sword of Radiance Sect..."

Lin Feng could not hold back his laughter as he heard the ongoing conversation. He looked towards the other pavilion where Xiao Yan crossed his legs in silence. His eyes were closed and it was apparent that he was meditating as final preparations for what was to come.

Inside Yue Hongyan's room, she was also quietly meditating with her legs crossed. Of Lin Feng's other disciples, only Wang Lin could match the effort she put in while practising and cultivating. The two of them did not waste a single second.

As the day passed into night, Lin Feng was resting inside his pavilion before he was jolted awake. He grunted and said, "You wish to die?"

In the middle of the night, one of Shi Chongyun's servants appeared outside Yue Hongyan's room.

Chapter 247: The Troublemaker Is Here

Lin Feng's extended his consciousness outside and discovered cultivator of the Aurous Core stage in black armor arriving outside Yue Hongyan's room. It was one of Prince Chong Yun's followers from earlier in the day.

He seemed to know he could not hide from Lin Feng. He wore a respectful smile on his face and bent his body in a greeting towards Lin Feng's pavilion before standing outside Yue Hongyan's room and letting loose a deep-throated howl.

This person left immediately after and did not loiter around any further.

Lin Feng watched from the side and he saw Yue Hongyan exit her room in a hurry. She seemed to be quite excited.

"Master, that person was imitating the call of a snow fox. The snow fox is an exotic animal found in the Arctic State, so that person could be from there." As pumped as she was, Yue Hongyan still reported to Lin Feng as soon as possible.

Lin Feng did not move in his seat and gave her a faint smile before voice-projecting, "Then go ahead and catch up."

Yue Hongyan took a deep breath and calmed herself down before chasing out.

The other party travelled deep within Xingyun Peak as Yue Hongyan followed closely behind along with Lin Feng's consciousness.

The man stopped in front of a cave entrance and turned to flash a smile at Yue Hongyan.

Yue Hongyan took a clear look at the man's face and her smile froze immediately. The excitement on her face about meeting a person from her neighborhood vaporized.

She stared coldly at the man in the front of her. "Isn't this Wang Jiannan? Were you not in the first batch of traitors when the Zhou Empire invaded the Arctic State? How are you with the Great Qin Empire now? It can't be because even the Zhou bastards couldn't accept a heinous traitor like you?"

Yue Hongyan's tone of speech was not that much different from that of her direct and straightforward fighting style; she left no wriggling space for her adversary.

As for Wang Jiannan, she was not a stranger. This man used to be her and her brother Yue Hongfeng's mentor, and it was because of this fact that caused her to hate him even more.

Even though Wang Jiannan was mentally prepared, his face flushed red all the way down to his neck but quickly recovered. He smiled at Yue Hongyan and said, "You are wrong, Hongyan. You were just a kid back then – there are so many things you didn't know."

"When the Great Zhou Empire invaded the Arctic State, I was indeed in the first batch to offer my help to invaders. However, all that was fake as my heart has always been with the Arctic State. My entry into the Great Zhou Empire was but an artifice for a better future and service to my country."

Wang Jiannan spoke with eloquence. "Alas, it was not to be in the end. The Arctic State fell to ruins, and of course I could not continue serving the Great Zhou Empire so I switched my loyalty to the Great Qin Empire."

"The Great Zhou Empire's power is great – that is a fact. If I want to avenge the Arctic State and maybe even reinstate it, I have to rely on another power. The Great Qin Empire is one such suitable power."

Yue Hongyan remained silent. Thinking that she had been convinced, Wang Jiannan tried to strike while the iron was hot. "Hongyan, there is a great opportunity at hand. Prince Chong Yun will ascend to the throne of the Great Qin Empire in due time, and reinstatement will be possible with his help."

Yue Hongyan interrupted him coldly. "Why would he help us?"

Wang Jiannan laughed and replied, "Hongyan, I want to say that this is your good fortune and privilege. When Prince Chong Yun saw you today, he already had the idea of asking for your hand. Even though he already has a main spouse, the position of mistress is still vacant..."

Yue Hongyan suddenly erupted into a bout of hysterical laughter.

The smile on Wang Jiannan's face gradually changed. He could tell that Yue Hongyan's laughter was not one of joy and gleefulness but was one of bitterness and acrimony.

Yue Hongyan stopped laughing abruptly as she turned to look resentfully at Wang Jiannan. Her voice was calm but terribly apathetic. "Wang Jiannan, I appreciate your master's good will but I am not worth it."

"The mess the bunch of you have created was meant to target the Celestial Sect of Wonders and my master, right?" Yue Hongyan raised her head to the starry night above. "Meeting people from my old neighborhood is supposed to be a happy event. Little did I know I met a stranger and a criminal!"

"To hell with your lies." Yue Hongyan continued, "Wang Jiannan, please get out of my sight. I won't pursue what happened today and take you down – although that is because we're at Xingyun Peak and not because I used to know you."

Wang Jiannan's expression turned ugly. "Hongyan, you..."

Yue Hongyan repeated herself and said, "Please get out of my sight."

"Yue Hongyan, you don't know what's right for you." Anger

surfaced on Wang Jiannan's face. A cultivator in the foundation establishment stage – and also an ex-student – showing such disobedience to an ex-mentor and an Aurous Core stage cultivator was irrational. All of this sent Wang Jiannan into a fit of rage.

He did not particular stand out as a follower of Prince Chong Yun. He finally established connection with Yue Hongyan and wanted to score a big one. Little did he know that Yue Hongyan showed him no respect or face and left him humiliated.

She remained expressionless as she reiterated the same few words. "Get out of my sight."

Wang Jiannan glared at Yue Hongyan with a death stare. After a long while, he restrained his anger and patiently said to Hongyan, "Think about what happened today. Don't blame me for not warning or reminding you – Prince Chong Yun will not wait for you for long."

"Screw off!" Yue Hongyan shot back a glare and flames were pouring out of her eyes.

"You..." Wang Jiannan shook his sleeves in frustration and left with a face of humiliation.

Yue Hongyan stared at Wang Jiannan's shadow. Her fists were clenched tight, and after a long moment she muttered under her breath, "Master, I want to kill him."

Lin Feng shifted out of the shadows beside her and said plainly, "Do not worry. I will give you the chance."

He turned to look at Yue Hongyan. "Are you more angry or disappointed?"

Yue Hongyan pouted and sighed. "I'm more disappointed."

Lin Feng smiled in response. "Let's go back and rest," The corner of his mouth curved into a grin. "Tomorrow's going to be exciting."

As Lin Feng predicted, the next day was indeed exciting.

Except it was Xiao Budian and Tun Tun who began arguing with each other.

"I thought you said there were Red-Feathered Cranes around here? Why have I not seen one?" Xiao Budian complained as he grilled a piece of snake meat over a fire. It was the Blue Cloud Horn Snake he caught earlier.

Tun Tun pouted and replied, "I caught one outside. Surely Xingyun Peak has its own pens and farms where they keep the Red-Feathered Cranes. Xingyun Peak is so big, how could I possibly know where they were exactly?"

She picked up a twig and skewered a piece of snake meat as well. "The way you're eating the meat is so troublesome. I used to just swallow the piece whole." Tun Tun kept on whining.

"That's because you're stupid and you don't know how to enjoy good food. The more you eat the more food you'll be wasting." Xiao Budian replied her without even lifting his head. Once the piece of meat he was holding was cooked, he immediately poked it towards Lin Feng. "Master, you should try first."

Lin Feng peered at him with a faint smile. "Eh? Why are you suddenly so respectful to me? Weren't you always too busy filling your own stomach?"

Xiao Budian had really thick skin. He laughed mischievously as he heard his master's words and replied, "What we had previously weren't good. The Blue Cloud Horn Snake is good stuff – it even smells good."

Lin Feng took the skewer with the piece of meat and laughed. "Okay, okay. What do you want, tell me."

"You understand me so well, master." Xiao Budian scratched the back of his head. "Master, can you help me ask the Sword of Radiance Sect where the Red-Feathered Cranes are?"

Lin Feng replied, "Can't you ask yourself?"

"I already have." Xiao Budian paused and glared at Tun Tun. "But this person gave it away. Everyone knew she's a glutton so nobody was willing to tell me where the Red-Feathered Cranes were."

Tun Tun pouted when she heard what he said but did not make a sound. It seemed as if she was regretful.

"I thought it was clever to alert them and make them wary so that they'd go and check on their Red-Feathered Cranes while I follow behind. Maybe they would have even switched the spots of the Red-Feathered Cranes." Xiao Budian was upset. "Little did I know that people of the Sword of Radiance Sect were smarter than me. I squatted in wait for a long time but I never discovered where they hid the Red-Feathered Cranes."

At the side, Xiao Yan, Yue Hongyan and the Black Dragon Jieyu could not control their laughter.

Xiao Yan tapped Xiao Budian on the shoulder. "You little imp. You only become smart when it comes to food."

Yue Hongyan glanced at Lin Feng. "Since you guys have already given it away, asking our master to ask again may not be a good idea."

"Senior Yue, you can't put it like that. They can reject telling me where the cranes are, but if master requested to see the Red-Feathered Cranes, they have to give him some face and show them to him."

Yue Hongyan chuckled as she knew that if Lin Feng went ahead to ask, the Sword of Radiance Sect would definitely answer. However, would that not place Lin Feng at the same level as Xiao Budian?

Xiao Budian was a little embarrassed to ask Lin Feng as he clearly understood that.

Lin Feng smiled and tapped Xiao Budian's forehead. "I don't have to ask and you don't have to worry. Not before long, they will come forward with what you desire."

Xiao Budian's eyes lit up. Suddenly, sounds rang out from outside the pavilion.

"I am Zhao Yan of the Sword of Radiance Sect. I am here to visit the Celestial Sect of Wonders."

Xiao Yan and company exchanged looks with each other and were a little bit baffled. Everyone trained their eyes on Lin Feng as he calmly said, "Aren't they already here?"

"Master, who is this?" Xiao Budian's eyes darted around as he did not believe the Sword of Radiance Sect would take the initiative to send him Red-Feathered Cranes for him to eat.

Yue Hongyan took some time to search her memory. "The name Zhao Yan rings a bell. I think he is the most outstanding prodigy of the Sword of Radiance Sect's younger generation. He's barely a hundred years old and he is already in the final stages of the Aurous Core stage."

"Everybody touted him to reach the Nascent Soul within a

hundred years. He has quite a reputation around the Divine Lands."

Xiao Yan's eyes sparkled and looked at Lin Feng. "Master, is he looking for trouble?"

Lin Feng refuted Xiao Yan's theory indifferently. "The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster will not resort to measures like this. It might be the idea of the Nascent Soul stage Grandmasters."

Xiao Yan scoffed and said to Yue Hongyan and Xiao Budian, "Since he's already here, let us welcome him."

Chapter 248: Inner Monologue

Lin Feng sat upright in his pavilion and did not move but his attention was still focused Xiao Yan and the others.

Lin Feng was flooded with emotions as he watched the agitated, upset, but forever calm and composed Xiao Yan.

Three years of hard work, waiting and perseverance could be said to be for the trip to Xingyun Peak.

This was meant to be the first battle that would send Xiao Yan on the path to fame and make him a legend.

Lin Feng was clearly aware of what the Sword of Radiance Sect had in mind; they simply wanted to grind Xiao Yan's spirit with their resident talents before the big fight.

However, in Lin Feng's eyes, it was futile.

The Celestial Sect of Wonders had no problem overcoming others of their own level and standard of ability. This was not an exaggeration they came up with on their own.

Lin Feng scanned the several disciples of the Sword of Radiance Sect and flashed a sadistic smile. "I hope we don't completely destroy your confidence."

The Xiao Yan of today would never let anybody hinder or disturb his arranged battle with Murong Yanran.

Not even Prince Chong Yun.

In terms of status, he was the crown prince of the Great Qin Empire. In terms of mastery, he was a Nascent Soul stage cultivator. In terms of prowess, he was protected by magic treasures.

Yet, not even he could stop this battle. Along the path that he was on, all that was meaningless.

Even though he did not know what Xiao Yan was thinking about exactly, Lin Feng tried to imagine himself as Xiao Yan in a humorous manner.

"I've waited three years for this chance. I want to make a difference, not because I want to prove that I'm better but because I will take back what I have lost."

"That is close to your mood, isn't it?" An unscrupulous master thought to himself as he watched Xiao Yan and company walk up to Zhao Yan and the other visitors.

Behind Zhao Yan stood several other sword cultivators of the Sword of Radiance Sect. One could tell by their mana waves that they were at the final stages of the Aurous Core stage, the golden elixirs they formed were all of purple pill qualities and they were

all quite young.

It appeared that these people were the most talented youngsters of the Sword of Radiance Sect.

If there were no unforeseen circumstances, Murong Yanran was hopeful and definitely on track to join their ranks in the future. This was also the reason why the Sword of Radiance Sect regarded her so highly.

These kinds of talented disciples with unlimited talent and potential were foundational stones at the moment but pillars of the future.

The aura these people emanated was unlike that of the usual sword cultivators. Those were filled with hostility and piercing radiance but these guys had the essence of floating clouds that perplexed the onlooker.

Even though he knew that he could not estimate Xiao Yan and Xiao Budian's abilities the normal way, Xiao Yan was still calm as ever when faced with his adversaries. This confidence stemmed from being the star disciple of the Sword of Radiance Sect and him being in the final stages of the Aurous Core stage. He harbored enough power to give Grandmasters who were just getting into the Nascent Soul stage a good fight.

"I am Zhao Yan and I send you all greetings on behalf of the Sword of Radiance Sect." Zhao Yan smiled as he physically greeted the pavilion Lin Feng was in. "Greetings, Master Lin of the

Celestial Sect of Wonders. I do not wish to disturb you, and the point of us coming over is to discuss mantra with your junior disciples. I hope you don't mind."

Lin Feng was silent and seemed to give a green light.

Xiao Yan, Xiao Budian and the others glanced at each other as weird smiles appeared on their faces.

According to what was known, Zhao Yan was a little over a hundred years old and definitely spent over a hundred years learning from the Sword of Radiance Sect. As a cultivator in the final stages of the Aurous Core stage, calling Xiao Yan and the others 'juniors' was not really wrong but it sounded exceptionally annoying in their ears.

Xiao Yan replied plainly, "And how do you want to 'discuss', Cultivator Zhao?"

Zhao Yan's eyes contracted a little bit as he heard what Xiao Yan called him. Even so, he still wore a smile on his face but his tone was a lot less amiable. "I have heard rumors that the disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders are unbeatable by cultivators of the same level. How true is that, I wonder?"

"If my memory didn't fail me, Junior Xiao must be the cardinal disciple under Master Lin? As the main disciple of the Sword of Radiance Sect, I would like to 'learn' from you."

Zhao Yan's attitude began to change as he uttered his sentence. The aura that was originally like floating clouds morphed into something like an unsheathed sword; it was an incredibly blinding aura that surpassed that of other sword cultivators.

The disciples of the Sword of Radiance Sect behind Zhao Yan wore smiles of amusement, as if they were watching a show, and showed no signs of spirit. They were still much like the drifting clouds and the foggy mist.

Xiao Yan scoffed and did not reply. Beside him, Xiao Budian took a step forward and released a stream of fierce and oppressive mana, stopping Zhao Yan's sword Qi in its tracks.

Zhao Yan's trained his gaze on Xiao Budian. Xiao Budian smiled with that charming child-like look and said, "Zhao Yan, you wish to test the theory that we are unbeatable by other cultivators at our level? You can just try it with me."

He laughed as he continued, "Oh right, I'll just add on something else. Of all the disciples my master took in, I am the youngest."

The smile was instantly wiped from Zhao Yan's face – he could not reject Xiao Budian's challenge. Xiao Budian still had that sly smile but the aggressive mana stream was still locked on Zhao Yan.

"I knew you are going to take the fight for Xiao Yan. That is the reason why we brought so many people along," Zhao Yan thought to himself, "Little kid, let me teach you a lesson today. I'll have you know the true immensity of heaven and earth."

Zhao Yan was expressionless and replied with a tone of tranquillity. "Please, junior, will you help him out?"

The said junior was about to attack when Xiao Budian screamed, "Wait!"

"What now?" Zhao Yan held his breath.

Xiao Budian laughed out loud. "A battle with no stakes has no meaning. How about we spice it up? In the event that I win, you have to give me two red-feathered cranes, and..."

Tun Tun suddenly interrupted him and tugged on the corner of his shirt. Xiao Budian understood what she wanted to do and immediately changed his statement, "...Sorry, four! Four red-feathered cranes."

Zhao Yan recalled one of his juniors reporting the sighting of a Tao Tie and was mildly amused. "Ok. Four red-feathered cranes for you if you win. But what if you lose?"

"That's not possible." Xiao Budian replied without hesitation and Zhao Yan's face turned black.

Xiao Budian watched him and shook his head as if he were in pain. "Forget it, forget it. If I lose, this is yours." He waved his hand and took out a skewer with pieces of Blue Cloud Horn Snake meat.

Zhao Yan was speechless. "I should not waste my time talking to this little shit."

He slapped the sword strapped to his back and unsheathed it, releasing a brilliant golden light and a loud ring, and slashed towards Xiao Budian with dazzling speed.

Xiao Budian did not budge nor did he dodge the attack. He raised his fists and circles of lightning exploded outwards with booming sounds so loud it hurt one's eardrums.

He did not use any spell to meet Zhao Yan's sword radiance and neither did he use his own magic treasures. Instead, he simply punched out his fists and met his adversary with his physical prowess.

A few Nascent Soul stage Grandmasters of the Sword of Radiance Sect were secretly observing the battle. As they witnessed what just transpired, the Purple Cloud Grandmaster began to frown. "What a wildly arrogant kid."

The only female Grandmaster, Red Cloud Grandmaster, shook her head and said, "Yet you still have to admit that his potential and mana pool, even though he is only in the initial stages of the Aurous Core stage, is as good as that of Zhao Yan, who is already at the ultimate stages of the Aurous Core stage. Now I believe what the Azure Clouds Grandmaster said – this little fellow has the ability to put up a fight against early Nascent Soul stage cultivators."

The Purple Cloud Grandmaster nodded in response. "Even so, there is no way he can defeat Zhao Yan."

Indeed, Zhao Yan grunted and casted a spell. His sword radiance began to change.

Lin Feng was watching the ongoing battle from within his pavilion and he completely understood all that was happening or changing. His gaze momentarily froze as he saw Zhao Yan's sword radiance zip towards Xiao Budian. As Xiao Budian attempted to repel the piercing streak, the golden ray of sword radiance suddenly dissipated into grey mist, turned around and avoided Xiao Budian's thunderous punches with ease.

The grey mist morphed continuously after the evasion.

From the cloudy mist, a thin ray of light emerged – much like the calm after the storm and the reappearance of the sun. The rays of light became stronger and stronger and gradually bore forward.

Finally the golden sword radiance materialized from the fray and cut directly towards Xiao Budian's vital point!

The changing between the cloudy mist and the sword radiance was smooth adept. This display of skill by Zhao Yan was spectacular indeed and the Azure Clouds Grandmaster cheered for him in response. "This is the trademark sword mantra of the Sword of Radiance Sect, the Radiant Clouds Sword Technique. Zhao Yan is getting better and better every day."

"He is, indeed. This is great." The Purple Cloud Grandmaster grinned and it was obvious that he was delighted.

Zhao Yan's sword radiance and the cloudy mist changed back and forth and nimbly dodged Xiao Budian's defenses. It even came to a point where it almost seemed as if Zhao Yan was playing with the latter and teasing the poor kid. This Radiant Clouds Sword Technique's reputation followed that of the Sword of Radiance Sect and was undeniably the trademark skill, and the force of destruction was not to be trifled with.

The onlooking Lin Feng had already discovered the special characteristics of this technique.

The Radiant Clouds Sword Technique was based on understanding the true meaning of the intersection between light and darkness, and by extension, the interaction between the clouds and the rays of light. Cultivators could eventually produce their own sword radiance, and with this technique, their sword radiances could shift into misty or cloudy sword energy, similar to the former, and back to confuse the opponent.

The sword radiance was strong and resilient, but could only travel in a straight line after its release from the cultivator and the direction could not be changed. Even though the average person could not dodge such a strike from a fast sword cultivator, there was still a potential weakness. By integrating the sword radiance with the misty sword energy and transforming back and forth, one overcame the aforementioned weakness and the acute sword radiance would become immensely more versatile and dangerous. More people would struggle against such a tactic.

The intersection between light and darkness – the clouds represented darkness – perplexed adversaries as they could not fathom the current form of the sword radiance. In one moment it could seem like a piercing ray of sword radiance which was coming right at you, and you would dodge towards the side and the next moment what was the ray of sword radiance suddenly became a winding and snaking cloud of misty sword energy.

Lin Feng silently gave his approval. The Sword of Radiance Sect's trademark skill was both practical and insidious.

As the old saying goes, "Play the pig to eat the tiger."

What was released was sword Qi to confuse the opponent about the speed and power of one's attacks. Only when the killer move arrived in front of the adversary did the ray of light instantly morph into a fierce and powerful sword radiance mode, impaling the latter party before he or she could even react.

Some of the other disciples of the Sword of Radiance Sect saw Xiao Budian struggling to keep up and began to tease Xiao Yan. "Senior Zhao is having a good time with your junior. How about we have a little practice battle as well, Xiao Junior?"

Xiao Yan scoffed. "What's the hurry? It's going to be over soon."

The other party was taken aback by his response. He turned his head and began to realize something had changed in the battle between Zhao Yan and Xiao Budian.

Chapter 249: Probing Forward

Zhao Yan was extremely adept at one of the moves in the Radiance Clouds Sword Technique called "Day and Night, Dance of the Clouds". One could compare Zhao Yan to a bull-fighter and Xiao Budian was the bull; it was undeniable that Zhao Yan was teasing Xiao Budian. All that was happening made Zhao Yan intensely gratified as he settled the score.

Xiao Budian's constant expressionless face still irked him, however. There was not a single hint of frustration on Xiao Budian's childish face – in fact, all he was doing was watch Zhao Yan and the switching of sword radiances and the cloudy mist with those beady eyes of his.

The feeling was like he was trying to catch a fluttering butterfly.

This discovery ruined Zhao Yan's mood but also put Xiao Yan slightly on edge.

Indeed, after a short while, Xiao Budian laughed and shook his head. "I'm done playing with you." He punched out with intense force and layers of lightning, centered around his body, exploded outwards like unstoppable tides.

As for Zhao Yan's ever-changing sword radiances, Xiao Budian actually had the power to capture them but he got lazy to continue to play with Zhao Yan. His resolution was the clumsiest and most direct one possible but it was also the most effective.

Deploying an attack with a large surface area did not require much mana but attempting to dodge such an attack would be futile and highly ineffective.

Zhao Yan's brow moved up an inch and he said plainly, "Are you treating me like an Aurous Core stage cultivator, like you?"

He made a gesture and the surrounding streaks of light and misty energy began to concentrate on his sword radiance. The strength and potency of the sword radiance increased exponentially as the transitioning back and forth between light and mist continued.

The sword radiance rose up and met Xiao Budian's lightning strikes. The two forces clashed and light, mist and lightning clustered into a mess, annihilating each other.

Xiao Budian chuckled as his body blew up into a hurricane. The energy began to build up as the lightning melded together with the winds into a thunderstorm.

Ever since he formed the Aurous Core and advanced to the Aurous Core stage, the power of his Infinite Thunderstorm had also been improving exponentially.

More accurately put, the potential of the Infinite Thunderstorm is unlimited. However, Xiao Budian might not be able to handle its power once it reached a certain level.

When Xiao Budian successfully advanced to the Aurous Core

stage he developed special capabilities to control the power of the thunderstorm. He could let the Infinite Thunderstorm get stronger and terminate its metaplasia and continue strengthening it.

The rolling thunderstorm blanketed the entire scene and was unstoppable as it pushed back Zhao Yan's sword radiance.

That was not the end, however. Xiao Budian huffed and puffed, and absorbed the spiritual energy of the world with his Nine-holed Aurous Core. The power of the Infinite Thunderstorm continued to rise.

Even the Mountain Defense Formation Spell to protect Xingyun Peak responded to the spike in power. Layers and layers of clouds and light bore down on Xiao Budian.

The Purple Cloud Grandmaster frowned and raised his hand to stop the Cloud-Sky Sword of Radiance Formation. If the formation continued to press on, Xiao Budian could not possibly handle it and it would embarrass the Sword of Radiance Sect.

"The power of his thunderstorm act is immense. He could indeed put up a fight against a Nascent Soul stage cultivator, at least in terms of mana and pure power comparison." The Red Cloud Grandmaster thought to herself and a dreary look could be seen on her face as she glanced at the Azure Clouds Grandmaster.

She was a middle-period Nascent Soul stage cultivator and was unafraid of Xiao Budian. However, the Azure Clouds Grandmaster was only in the infant stages as a Nascent Soul stage cultivator and

could definitely feel the pressure from Xiao Budian.

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster's facial expression also darkened. He witnessed Xiao Budian's battle against Yu Wanfeng and was quite clear about Xiao Budian's potential. Yet, a battle such as this would stir anyone regardless.

"From what the Azure Clouds Grandmaster said, the power of Xiao Yan is far greater than this guy. I'm afraid of what comes when they reach the Nascent Soul stage." The Purple Cloud Grandmaster slowly iterated.

Both the Red Cloud Grandmaster and the Azure Clouds Grandmaster's expression changed and anybody could see that it was a forlorn and dismal one. They peered at Xiao Yan and Xiao Budian and heaved heavy sighs after a long while.

Sometimes, we might be a lot happier if we stopped thinking so much.

They turned their gaze towards Lin Feng's pavilion. Nothing was going on there, but its very existence exerted some kind of invisible pressure on the Purple Cloud Grandmaster.

"The Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders actually brought up disciples of this calibre – it is frightening, indeed."

Zhao Yan stood fast under the pressure from the Infinite Thunderstorm. His face was solemn and dark. "There must be

something wrong with his Aurous Core! It's not possible that he could possess such strength and such a mana pool."

He could feel that Xiao Budian's Infinite Thunderstorm was still gathering power. He could wait no longer and raised his hand to fire a golden talisman.

The Sky Sword Talisman was a Nascent Soul stage magic item. It could store large amounts of intense sword energy that only Nascent Soul stage cultivators could release. This item was Zhao Yan's trump card.

The sword energy generated by the golden talisman-like item pierced the sky in waves and forcefully pushed back Xiao Budian's Infinite Thunderstorm.

"Metaplasia of the clouds, Gasification of a million blades!" Zhao Yan shouted as the sword energy generated by the Sky Sword Talisman fused with that of his own. The result was a bright mass of sword Qi, nearly covered the entire area and shot towards Xiao Budian like a hurricane.

Xiao Budian was unafraid. With a laugh, he stamped on the ground with his right foot and the Infinite Thunderstorm stopped expanding and retracted around his body.

Divine Martial Way of the Muscular Body, Heaven-Shaking Thunderstorm!

The raging thunderstorm enveloped Xiao Budian's body. One could see his silhouette becoming bigger and bigger, rising from six feet to over twenty feet in no time. It was as scary as the descent of the Ghost God onto earth.

The thunderstorm seemed to have become his armor. He shook his gigantic arms and explosive force of the act repelled the hurricane sword radiance.

"What fearsome physical power! The dragon race does not seem to be much better." Zhao Yan bit his lip. "Let me see how strong you actually are."

Zhao Yan's "Metaplasia of the clouds, Gasification of a million blades" immediately morphed into the most powerful technique of the Sword of Radiance Sect, the "Flight of the Clouds, Strike of the Thunderstorm"!

Zhao Yan appeared to merge with his sword and flew into the sky. He was one with the clouds and the sword radiance in the sky, and brilliant streaks of light shot out all around the sword radiance. The unpredictable and obscure nature of the clouds and mist were completely gone – what was left was pure destruction. Once again, the sword radiance slashed towards Xiao Budian's Thunderstorm Demon and God with seemingly unstoppable force.

The sword Qi from the Sky Sword Talisman was emptied into this blow. The power injected into the sword caused it to shuttle through space; it disappeared from its original position and appeared in front of Xiao Budian at the exact same time.

Even a Nascent Soul stage cultivator had to pay attention when defending against such a fearsome sword technique. One would definitely be dead or heavily injured if stabbed or impaled by such a blow.

Xiao Budian did not show any sign of fear. The Thunderstorm Demon and God Avatar opened its mouth and released a booming laughter. "Not only you have a Nascent Soul stage magic item."

The green light on his body flickered as his whole person immediately vanished into thin air.

Zhao Yan was taken aback. He suddenly recalled the Azure Clouds Grandmaster's reminder that Lin Feng once bestowed upon Xiao Budian a small green crucible that was capable of breaking the space-time continuum. The small crucible was a Nascent Soul stage magic item and it was with this item that Xiao Budian could stand up to Yu Wanfeng, a Nascent Soul stage Grandmaster.

However, that was only what he heard. It was a completely different story when faced with the real thing. Only now did he know how frustrating the situation was and how difficult to handle Xiao Budian's Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness was.

This magic item was made to unlock spatial mysteries and give the user control over the latter.

Xiao Budian's body kept on flickering in the air and was much more insidious and unpredictable than Zhao Yan's sword radiance

before.

The thunderous punches hammered upon Zhao Yan's sword radiance again and again, but never once met head-on with the sword the radiance. Xiao Budian avoided direct contact and repeatedly attacked from the flanks until Zhao Yan's sword radiance began to waver and collapse.

Zhao Yan heaved a heavy sigh and muttered under his breath, "Barrier of Clouds and Mist, Veil of Wind and Rain..."

The arching sword radiance began to dissipate and all the power injected into the former transformed into layers of sword Qi, enveloping Zhao Yan within. The thick barrier of clouds and mist collectively defended the user against Xiao Budian's iron fists.

The attack on the cluster of clouds hammered upon the cluster of clouds. As powerful as the attacks were, the cloud mass simply trembled without any real damage caused. Sword Qi that had been pushed back quickly rejoined the rest of the cloud mass and continued to defend against Xiao Budian's hurricane attacks.

Lin Feng had been observing the fight all along and a smile appeared on his face.

Previously, the technique "Flight of the Clouds, Strike of the Thunderstorm" could be said to be the Sword of Radiance's most aggressive and offensive killer move.

In contrast, the technique "Barrier of Clouds and Mist, Veil of Wind and Rain" was the most defensive and protective move of the Sword of Radiance Sect. The user gave up all offensive power in the sword radiance and retracted the latter to protect himself or herself.

However, using the defensive technique for long was not the solution as Xiao Budian would continue to step up his advantage. In the end, he was the one that was on the offence and had the initiative. If Zhao Yan, who was but desperately defending himself, made a wrong move or lost his focus for just one moment he was irrevocably lost.

"The outcome is obvious." Lin Feng grinned as the Purple Cloud Grandmaster on the other side let loose a heavy sigh.

Xiao Yan peered at the Sword of Radiance disciple beside him with mocking eyes and said, "I told you, this would be over soon."

The company of disciples from the Sword of Radiance all wore solemn expressions. They watched Xiao Budian repeatedly assault Zhao Yan and the pace of invasion was only getting fiercer. It seemed as if Zhao Yan cloud mass was going to collapse and fail him anytime.

Xiao Yan laughed again and directed his gaze to one side, "How long more do you wish to watch?"

The air split in half as the tyrannical Prince Chong Yun stepped forward from the void. He was in the company of the Aurous Core

stage cultivators that he brought along, including Wang Jiannan.

Prince Chong Yun eyed Xiao Budian but did not say anything.

He did not want to enter the battle himself, but not a single person in his company of Aurous Core stage cultivators could stand up to Xiao Budian. This fact deeply embarrassed him.

The disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders were touted to be unmatched by cultivators of the same stage and level. Even if he stepped in and won the battle, there was not much glory in it as he was already at the Nascent Soul stage.

There was not yet any movement from Prince Chong Yun's camp but someone was already thinking about him.

Lin Feng watched Prince Chong Yun silently and thought to himself, "I wonder what Wu Qingrou is thinking about. Maybe he wants to probe forward and gather information before he walks it."

At this point in time, Lin Feng voice-projected to Yue Hongyan and said, "Hongyan, you can challenge Wang Jiannan now. Whether or not you wish to let him live is up to you."

Yue Hongyan's eyes erupted into flames as she heard Lin Feng's message. Without any hint of hesitation, Yue Hongyan stepped forward and raised her Black Ember Pole-Ax at Wang Jiannan.

Prince Chong Yun squinted a little bit as the Aurous Core stage cultivators began to exclaim.

The company of disciples from the Sword of Radiance Sect reacted by staring at Yue Hongyan with astonished looks.

The red-haired young lady remained silent. She simply raised her eyebrows a little bit – her intentions were clear.

Chapter 250: The Tyrannical Hongyan

Yue Hongyan pointed her Black Ember Pole-Ax at Wang Jiannan, and her intentions were clear.

Wang Jiannan's face lost all color and went completely pale – it appeared that this was caused by fear.

He was not afraid of Yue Hongyan, but of what Prince Chong Yun might do.

Indeed, Prince Chong Yun turned with an expressionless look and glared at him. "I remember you saying that progress was smooth?"

Wang Jiannan hurriedly replied, "My Prince, please let me explain..."

"I don't have the patience for this. You resolve it here immediately." Prince Chong Yun waved his hand and said with impatience.

"Yes, sir." Wang Jiannan was relieved. As long as Prince Chong Yun did not pursue the matter, he was confident he could turn the situation back.

He eyed Yue Hongyan as his emotional state returned to composure. He leapt out from the company of people and deliberately said in a calm manner, "Hongyan, it's been a long

time. Come, let me check your progress!"

Yue Hongyan raised her eyebrows and said no more. With one step backwards, she launched herself at her foe with incredible speed, much like an arrow leaving its bow.

The Purple Cloud Grandmaster was a little shocked as he witnessed what just transpired. "This girl seems to be the Lin Feng's direct disciple. She should only be in the Foundation Establishment stage, right? Yet, she took the initiative to challenge an Arous Core stage cultivator. Could it be that every disciple of the Celestial Sect of Wonders is insanely prodigious?"

The Azure Clouds Grandmaster thought for a moment and replied, "Let's just wait and see. There was a disciple under the Celestial Sect of Wonders named Wang Lin, and during the Battle of Shazhou City he was in the Foundation Establishment stage himself and swept all other Foundation Establishment stage cultivators."

The Red Cloud Grandmaster's eyes flickered and said, "There must be something unnatural about the mantra and abhijna of the Celestial Sect of Wonders."

Previously, Yue Hongyan had only just entered the middle level of the Foundation Establishment stage but had the courage to challenge two adversaries, who were in the ending stages of the Foundation Establishment stage. Back then, she was only practicing the Mantra of the Apocalyptic True Flame.

Currently, her foe was an Aurous Core stage cultivator, Wang Jiannan. It was certainly incomparable to the aforementioned, but Yue Hongyan's mantra had by now been improved and changed to the Grand Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams, and her power was far greater than before.

No matter what changed, however, the straightforward and direct fighting style was a constant. She soared every step of the way.

Initially, Wang Jiannan thought he would have no trouble dispatching Yue Hongyan with his superior powers as an Aurous Core stage cultivator. However, after two of his spells were forcefully broken through by Yue Hongyan, he knew he was gravely wrong.

"Blizzard!" Wang Jiannan erased all his disorganized thoughts from his mind and began to treat Yue Hongyan like a real enemy. The spell he cast whipped up a blizzard around the area with him at the center of it. The dome of winds and the snow covered had a radius of more than a hundred feet and covered everything within.

Under the influence of the snowstorm, the gusts of winds would carry dark and cold magic and attack the adversary. Even if the other party could successfully block and repel the gust, the hidden dark magic within would have already disseminated through his body and it would be too late.

Yue Hongyan took big steps and stormed through the blizzard. Her tight purple suit began to radiate and uncountable streaks of light twisted and folded into tessellated hexagons.

The tessellation of the hexagons formed a plate of armor that looked like glass. At first sight, it might seem weak, as if it was a piece of furniture for decoration, but it emanated an intense and unmovable aura of energy.

It was an Aurous Core stage item, the Ancient Jade Armor.

The front of the armor radiated light in all directions and formed a hexagon-shaped screen.

The hexagonal screen hovered in the air and did not look like it was going to dissipate.

The streaks of light danced about and the hexagonal screens in the air proliferated and ultimately tessellated into one beehive-like piece, forming a complete wall.

The wall of light bent backwards and formed a dome over Yue Hongyan, protecting her, and shifted forward as she moved forward.

Innumerable gusts of cold wind battered on the dome of light but could not damage it more than the scratches they left on the latter.

Wang Jiannan was speechless. In the blink of an eye, Yue Hongyan had already arrived in front of him. With a wave of her Black Ember Pol-Ax and the likeness of a roaring dragon, Yue Hongyan went for the killer blow.

"No wonder this girl is so outrageous. She has an Aurous Core stage magic item given to her by the leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders," Wang Jiannan thought to himself, "Her magic item has superior defensive abilities. I may not be able to pierce through the dome of light – looks like it's going to be hard to teach her a lesson today."

Wang Jiannan placed his hands together as thoughts ran through his head. He made a gesture and casted another spell, this time bringing the gusts of cold wind spinning around him.

Yue Hongyan's Black Ember Pol-Ax stabbed onto the protective layer of wind and snow. The torque of the snowstorm diverted the force of the attack and even the direction of exertion was pushed to another side.

Wang Jiannan opened his mouth in the midst of everything and said, "Yue Hongyan, you have indeed improved so much since we last met. I am extremely glad. As for this fight, let's call it a draw."

Lin Feng heard his words from inside the pavilion and chortled to himself, "You cunning little shit."

Both parties had yet to exchange more than two moves and neither of them was at a disadvantage and Wang Jiannan already suggested a draw. The onlookers would only think that he was trying to maintain his status as an Aurous Core stage cultivator and was unwilling to battle Yue Hongyan due to the fact instead of him being afraid of her.

As an extrapolation of his words, their battle would only seem like a senior giving pointer to a junior.

How could Yue Hongyan not detect his nonsense? She scoffed and flared her red eyebrows. Instead of replying him, she simply swept the Black Ember Pol-Ax in a half-circle and released a fearsome wave of power.

In the blink of an eye, thousands of aggressive strikes began to hammer upon the spinning blizzard enwrapping Wang Jiannan.

"This kind of aggressive force is definitely not what a Foundation Establishment stage cultivator should possess. What kind of mantra is she learning from the Celestial Sect of Wonders?"

Wang Jiannan was trying his best to resist the pressure from Yue Hongyan – how could he not feel embarrassed?

However, he was confident that Yue Hongyan would not be able to break past his barrier. "The closer I bring in the snowstorm, the stronger this Spinning Snowstorm Technique gets. There is no way you're breaking through all that."

Under Yue Hongyan's relentless assault, the Spinning Snowstorm continually contracted and seemed as if he was retreating backwards.

Even so, the onlookers could tell that the defensive ability of the

Spinning Snowstorm was getting stronger and stronger, but Yue Hongyan's aggression seemed to be getting gradually weaker.

The Red Cloud Grandmaster let loose a heavy sigh. "She could force an Aurous Core stage cultivator into a full defensive mode – that is quite an achievement in itself."

As her voice dropped, the Red Cloud Grandmaster's expression became one of intense astonishment. "This is..."

Just at that moment, a sphere of black flame began to concentrate upon the tip of the Black Ember Pol-Ax. The sphere of black flame flickered with streaks of red light and grouped together into a huge fiery hurricane. The sphere continued to spin around the Black Ember Pol-Ax until it reached the tip of the latter.

This point was incredibly heavy – the mass was so great that everything in the immediate vicinity seemed to be collapsing towards it.

Wang Jiannan was taken aback. "From her previous moves, this should be the Apocalyptic Spear Technique."

"When the Apocalyptic Spear Technique is trained to the pinnacle of its potential, the spinning fiery hurricane could produce a huge gravitational force. The foe would be forced forward and would be unable to retreat. This much, I know." Wang Jiannan observed the scene with continued awe.

"However, that kind of suction depends on the strength of our mana pools. Mine is superior – she's unable to suck me in."

"Even so, such a scene is truly astonishing. Surrounding matter began to collapse into the singularity as if there was a mini-blackhole consuming everything around it. This could not possibly be the effect of the Apocalyptic Spear Technique, so what technique is this?!"

Everybody watching the battle had their attentions focused on Yue Hongyan's move.

Even though they were not the targets, the onlookers began to feel a mysterious force pulling them towards the point in question, much like a moth attracted to fire and eventually flying to its death. They knew they would perish in the black flames but they could not resist the attraction.

This was Yue Hongyan's own innovation after practising the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams.

The Space-Destroying Spear Technique!

Xiao Yan watched on from the side and slowly nodded his head.

"She managed to attain enlightenment on some spatial mysteries and she's only in the Foundation Establishment stage. Her talent at this is undeniable!"

Prince Chong Yun was also surprised by the move. He glanced at Yue Hongyan's eyes and realized that the red pupils of hers were full of invasiveness and flickering with an intimidating gaze.

Wang Jiannan was not given further opportunities to react as the force of Yue Hongyan's Space-Destroying Spear Technique began to slam onto his Spinning Snowstorm.

The impacts were not that great. Instead, all the winds and the snow in the snowstorm released by Wang Jiannan were instantly sucked into the singularity at the tip of the Black Ember Pol-Ax.

A scene such as this shot fear into the hearts of the audience.

Wang Jiannan could not be more stunned. He wanted to retreat but even he began to gravitate towards the Space-Destroying Spear Technique.

"You dare!" Wang Jiannan was desperate and could not hold back any longer. His Aurous Core shook intensely as he explosively released the mana and power within his body. A small snow-white pill materialized in the air.

In the moments following the fact, the snow-white pill exploded and countless streaks of snow and wind shot out.

Even though he had already used his trump card, the Snowstorm Explosion, Wang Jiannan did not underestimate his enemy. He flung out a Nascent Soul stage purple talisman and it morphed into

a thunderbolt, heading straight for Yue Hongyan.

It was a matter of life and death. After clearing his head, he could no longer bother about Yue Hongyan being Prince Chong Yun's target and gave no chances. He released all the power that he could possibly muster in his battle against Yue Hongyan.

The force of an Aurous Core stage cultivator fighting for his life was naturally a force to be reckoned with. What made it scarier was that the Nascent Soul stage purple talisman was equivalent to a Nascent Soul stage cultivator striking out a blow with all his might. In comparison, Yue Hongyan was only a Foundation Establishment stage cultivator and this move was akin to nuking a tank. The two sides were simply on different levels.

The thunderbolts and thunderclouds were looming dangerously close to Yue Hongyan.

No matter how strong the Space-Destroying Spear Technique was, it could not alter the fact that Yue Hongyan was, after all, a Foundation Establishment stage cultivator and the force of a Nascent Soul stage cultivator's all-out blow would definitely eliminate the former.

The Purple Cloud Grandmaster and the Red Cloud Grandmaster glanced at each other and simultaneously shook their heads.

Yue Hongyan was Lin Feng's direct disciple, and even though it was her folly by challenging someone stronger than her, the Sword of Radiance Sect was still accountable if she perished on Xingyun

Peak.

The Red Cloud Grandmaster split open the sky and prepared to receive this attack on behalf of Yue Hongyan.

"Do not worry," the Azure Clouds Grandmaster suddenly voiced out from beside her. "Even her own master is unworried."

The Purple Cloud Grandmaster and the Red Cloud Grandmaster were momentarily stunned as they suddenly recalled Lin Feng was still in the pavilion.

"He's not worried?" The Purple Cloud Grandmaster frowned slightly. "Unless..."

Chapter 251: Facing The Immortal Soul's Powers

Facing Wang Jiannan's deadly Snowstorm attacks, and his killer move – the Nascent Soul Purple Charm, Yue Hongyan had only one reaction:

To keep charging forward!

Wielded both space and the Space-destroying Spear Technique, she sprinted ahead, flipped her palm and two objects flew to mid-air.

One of them was a shield. Its surface area was not large, but it gave off an aura of wholesomeness and indestructibility.

The shield was a perfect circular shape; there were markings on the surface of the shield resembling many tributaries and distributaries, all interconnected with one another, as though water flowed through them ceaselessly. It could not be distinguished which was the river source, and which was the river mouth. It was almost as if it were limitless.

It was the Great Chaotic Shield of the Ganges by Kang Nanhua. The other day he gave Xiao Yan and company one each, and Yue Hongyan received one too.

Even though the Great Chaotic Shield of the Ganges was assembled by Kang Nanhua while he was in the final level of the

Aurous Core stage, using it to defend oneself against Wang Jiannan's charms and spells was more than enough.

The ferocious Snowstorm crash violently on the shield, but the Great Chaotic Shield of the Ganges remained still and sturdy.

The Great Chaotic Shield of the Ganges was able to resist attacks even those by Cultivators of the Nascent Soul Stage, but Yue Hongyan certainly did not intend to wear out the shield yet.

In the face of Wang Jiannan's Purple Soul Charm, Yue Hongyan reacted by using the exact same Purple Soul Charm!

Yue Hongyan's Purple Soul Charm transformed into a towering mountain in the sky, stubbornly resisting the deadly lightning strikes created by Wang Jiannan's Purple Soul Charm.

Eventually, the mountain was zapped into pieces, but the lightning strikes had also abated completely.

Wang Jiannan was brimming with extreme anger, as he watched Yue Hongyan weathered through all the obstacles unscathed. At that moment, the ruthless Space-destroying Spear Technique confronted him.

"Save me, Your Highness!" Wang Jiannan screamed at the top of his voice.

Prince Chong Yun's eyebrow moved slightly. Even though he was

not fond of Wang Jiannan, after all he was his follower. If Wang Jiannan were killed like that, Prince Chong Yun would have his share of embarrassment.

At this thought, Prince Chong Yun raised his arm slightly, intending to block Yue Hongyan's attack.

Xiao Yan witnessed this, and laughed mirthlessly and quietly. Two bright flames blazed in his eyes all of a sudden. The pressure created by these two Primordial Flames momentarily distracted Prince Chong Yun.

Disrupted by Xiao Yan, Prince Chong Yun could not save Wang Jiannan in time.

The power of Yue Hongyan's Space-destroying Spear Technique exploded in its entirety, and the impact blew Wang Jiannan into smithereens!

A mere Foundation Establishment cultivator at the initial level had just annihilated another superior Aurous Core stage cultivator!

This battle made Yue Hongyan!

Purple Cloud Grandmaster who was spectating beside sighed deeply, "Zhao Yan, please come back."

Initially, Purple Cloud Grandmaster thought that Xiao Yan and company did not have the audacity to kill and wound the disciples

of the Sword of Radiance Sect on Mount Xingyun. But now that he saw that they did not spare a thought for Prince Chong Yun at all, he started to feel unnerved.

Even though he was 99 percent sure that he could kill Zhao Yan, Xiao Budian did not dare to end his life. However, Purple Cloud Grandmaster did not want to take that one percent risk.

Zhao Yan was the Sword of Radiance Sect's top-notch and essential disciple, the Sword of Radiance Sect could not afford to lose him.

"Your powers are indeed impressive, I have lost to you," Zhao Yan sighed discreetly. Even though he could barely hold on, he knew deep down that if the battle continued, he would eventually be defeated by Xiao Budian.

Zhao Yan thought that if he risked his life to challenge Xiao Budian, he might be able to severely wound Xiao Budian, or even kill him. But there was obviously no need for this outcome, so he might as well concede defeat.

From now onwards, he would not dare to address Xiao Budian as his junior anymore.

Upon hearing this, Xiao Budian smirked darkly and stopped his attack, but continued to wield his Wind and Lightning. Standing tall with his massive and intimidating stature, he stared down at the Sword of Radiance Sect's disciples, "Is there anyone else who wants to challenge the disciple of the Celestial Sect of Wonders?"

The remaining few Sword of Radiance Sect's disciples from the Aurous Core Stage looked at each other, speechless. They were the most skillful from their sect, but they were no better than Zhao Yan and had no confidence to defeat Xiao Budian.

Prince Chong Yun, who was standing beside, laughed coldly, "Tsk, the Celestial Sect of Wonders is unbeatable."

He did not look at Xiao Budian; his steely stare fell upon Xiao Yan and Yue Hongyan as he spoke slowly, "You knew very well that Wang Jiannan is my servant, and yet you killed him. Good on you."

An atmosphere of violence and mercilessness began to spread, pressing strongly against and smothering Yue Hongyan. The red-haired teenage girl felt like a small boat amidst strong currents, at risk of capsizing anytime.

But she stiffened herself, refusing to give in to the pressure exerted by Prince Chong Yun.

Xiao Yan walked in front of Yue Hongyan, taking on Prince Chong Yun's pressure on her behalf. He said calmly, "Yue Hongyan is my Junior, my Master will deal with her wrongdoings."

"If you are unhappy with her, you can take it out on me instead."

Prince Chong Yun laughed coldly, "If it weren't for the fact that I

wanted to save your master the embarrassment, I would have killed you yesterday."

Xiao Yan sniggered indifferently, "I am afraid you don't have the ability to do that."

"Let's try it out then," Prince Chong Yun's demeanor changed to that of a calm one suddenly, like a churning sea turning calm with no waves all of a sudden.

Deep down, however, Xiao Yan could sense the danger ahead and was more than vigilant.

The next moment, Prince Chong Yun suddenly moved. He put a step forward, teleported to the front of Xiao Yan and extended his hand towards him.

Xiao Yan could feel that the sky before his eyes momentarily turned dark as the sunlight vanished, leaving him in darkness.

Beneath Prince Chong Yun's palm, everything was in complete darkness.

Lin Feng, who was in the cave, witnessed this and nodded, "Putting aside the blemish in his character, his accomplishment in terms of his powers certainly does justice to his name as the Crown Prince of the Great Qin."

Different from the world of mere mortals, regardless of the Great

Qin Dynasty or the Great Zhou Dynasty, for those able to establish royal ruling in the world of Cultivators, their royal family members must have mastered some of the best charms and spells and possessed the necessary resources for Cultivation.

They were perhaps even better than the biggest sects such as the Sword of Radiance Sect, Intense Flaming Sword Sect, Aeolus Sect.

Even when compared to the Three Great Holy Ground, they were perhaps lacking slightly in the fundamentals only.

In a sense, the royal family of the Great Qin Dynasty is a more powerful Cultivator family than the big four families of the Great Qin.

As the Crown Prince of the Great Qin, the mantras and powers practised by Prince Chong Yun were naturally among the best and most formidable. When it came to battle strength, he was far better than Cultivators of the same stage. In fact, challenging those from the higher stages was not out of the question.

Even if Purple Cloud Grandmaster and Red Cloud Grandmaster from the Intermediate Nascent Soul Stage challenged Prince Chong Yun, they could not afford to be reckless.

"Lord Lin's disciples are, I am afraid, too arrogant and flamboyant for their own good."

At that instance, a voice rang beside Lin Feng's ears, "Need to

understand that well-grown trees are often destroyed by strong winds - outstanding and talented individuals often incite hatred and jealousy from the rest."

A man in a Stars Magic Robe suddenly appeared in Lin Feng's resting place with a smile. It was the Stellar Holy Man.

Lin Feng looked nonchalant, before adding calmly, "If the trees were destroyed by the winds, that would only be because the trees weren't sturdy enough. The Stellar Holy Man does not have to be involved in matters related to my disciples."

"Let's try things out then," the Stellar Holy Man laughed, "Seeing your disciples challenge others, I am tempted to try too. Sword of Radiance Sect's Grandmaster is the host here, I don't want to trouble him. I will just challenge Lord Lin then."

"I hope Lord Lin will not refuse."

While saying this, the Stellar Holy Man paced up and down in Lin Feng's place.

What seemed to be a few ordinary steps were, from Lin Feng's perceptive observation, something extraordinary.

The view before Lin Feng changed instantly. Everything previously vanished completely, even the Stellar Holy Man was nowhere to be seen.

What appeared before Lin Feng now, instead, was a ubiquitous sea of stars in a dark universe. Infinite stars twinkled brightly.

From afar, every star in the universe was a shiny spot. Each shiny spot moved ceaselessly along their respective orbits, yet they also seemed to adhere to a peculiar rule.

The stars moved in the ubiquitous sky. Innumerable stars followed fixed orbits, as they changed their positions each second.

"Is it the Big Dipper Move?" Lin Feng knew he was thinking the obvious. The few steps that the Stellar Holy Man executed set up a huge starry night sky that shielded him from the outside world.

The Stellar Holy Man did not vanish himself, instead, his entirety fused as one with the Cosmic Charm.

Once Lin Feng fell for the trick, he was trapped in it, unable to interfere with the fight outside between Xiao Yan and Prince Chong Yun.

"How do you find my Cosmic Charm?"

In the seemingly endless galaxy of stars, the Stellar Holy Man's voice came from all directions, reverberating non-stop in the hollow space.

Facing an Immortal Soul Cultivator, Lin Feng actually felt excited. He marched forward in the galaxy of stars, looking

completely relaxed and at ease.

Lin Feng took a few steps and realised that as he moved, the orbits of the innumerable stars in the dark universe started to change.

Before his eyes, tens of thousand of stars began to crash onto him.

With a flick of his finger, he used the Heaven and Earth Destroyer and instantaneously shattered the asteroids crashing upon him.

After a flick of finger by Lin Feng, the universe created by the Stellar Holy Man's Cosmic Charm formed a big hole. Chaos ensued – countless Land, Water, Fire and Wind engulfed the entire sky, as though the apocalypse had taken place.

The Stellar Holy Man sighed, "What a ruthless move by Lord Lin."

As he spoke, the constellations in the universe changed again suddenly. The stars began to change their positions as their orbits changed; the universe seemed to be reborn – balance was restored to the universe that seemed to be on the verge of destruction.

Lin Feng's eyebrow rose, "An Immortal Soul Cultivator, extraordinary indeed."

The Stellar Holy Man had not used his most advanced skills. Cultivators who had succeeded in accomplishing the Immortal Soul would first use the Nascent Soul as the core, the Heaven and Earth Appearance Mantra as the backbone, before successfully creating an Immortal Soul avatar exclusive to him.

Once the Immortal Soul avatar was created, one would be immortal. They could traverse the sky and the land and the entire universe.

At the same time, the Immortal Soul avatar was also where an Immortal Soul Cultivator's true powers lay. The Stellar Holy Man merely used his basic powers to cast the Cosmic Charm and did not reveal his personal Immortal Soul avatar.

It was clear that he did not intend to risk his life in a fight with Lin Feng. Even though Immortal Soul cultivators can live on almost forever, they could still be killed by external forces. Unless absolutely necessary, they would not risk their lives. After all, it was not easy for them to attain immortality, of course, they would want to enjoy it and would not put their lives on the line easily.

He challenged Lin Feng for two reasons: firstly, he wanted to stop Lin Feng from interfering in the battle between Prince Chong Yun and Xiao Yan; secondly, he wanted to find out Lin Feng's true ability.

To everyone out there, what Lin Feng was capable of remained a mystery.

The Stellar Holy Man stabilized the Starry Universe that he created with his Cosmic Charm, and continued to command the stars to crash on Lin Feng, in an attempt to compel Lin Feng to show his true skills.

Lin Feng immediately understood the Stellar Holy Man's intention. He laughed. Instead of utilizing his powers to challenge the Stellar Holy Man, he whipped out an object: A huge black umbrella!

Chapter 252: Invincible

Lin Feng took out a huge black umbrella. It was a special reward he received from the System after he accomplished the main quest on opening the mountain doors.

This reward was especially unique: if one were to use it at the right moment, it could work wonders; if used at the wrong moment, it could work against the owner.

Now, Lin Feng opened the umbrella and held it over his head. He walked slowly within the Cosmic Charm in a seemingly relaxed manner, as though he were looking at an exhibition.

The Stellar Holy Man could not see through Lin Feng's actions. He stared at the huge black umbrella above Lin Feng's head and observed it for a while, but he still could not figure out what so special about it.

Unable to figure out, the Stellar Holy Man decided to give up. He willed it mentally and another bout of asteroids hurtled towards Lin Feng in a lethal manner.

Standing beneath his umbrella, Lin Feng smiled calmly as he paid no attention to the incoming asteroids.

However, the Stellar Holy Man opened his eyes widely all of a sudden.

That was because he just witnessed how the thunderstorm of asteroids he created with his powers splashed and scattered when they fell upon the big black umbrella. It was as though his asteroids had turned into raindrops and could not penetrate the surface of the black umbrella.

The Stellar Holy Man fixed his gaze, and again willed infinite asteroids beneath Lin Feng's legs to fly towards Lin Feng from below him.

Curiously, when these asteroids neared Lin Feng, the dimension seemed to be distorted incomprehensibly. Like a moment ago, these asteroids fell upon the top of the umbrella like raindrops while Lin Feng remained unscathed.

This time, the Stellar Holy Man was stunned. The Starry Universe formed by his Cosmic Charm was in actuality a dimension independently created by him. Supposedly, in this Starry Universe, any principles and rules undergirding the dimension should be within his control.

However, as long as Lin Feng was shielded by the black umbrella, no matter from which direction the Stellar Holy Man initiated the attack, eventually the trajectory of the asteroids would be distorted so that they will on fall on the surface of the black umbrella above Lin Feng's head.

The Stellar Holy Man refused to concede, "I don't believe that I can't find a way to breach the umbrella's defence."

Under his manipulation, the formation of the stars changed again. On the northern side of the sky, seven bright stars were arranged into a dipper formation surrounded by infinite stars. They formed a colossal column of light, once again striking the black umbrella above Lin Feng.

But it was completely futile. Lin Feng held up the black umbrella, and, just like an umbrella shielding one from the sunlight, Lin Feng was shielded from the column of light, completely unharmed.

The Stellar Holy Man did not give up. He cast another spell: the sky changed once again, with nine stars lining up. He created a formidable and immensely powerful dimension-distorting force, intending to crush both Lin Feng and the huge black umbrella into pieces.

Again, it was pointless. The Space around Lin Feng was already distorted beyond recognition, even light could not pass through without being bent. However, Lin Feng could not be harmed – he was still holding the black umbrella and strutting around.

The Stellar Holy Man still did not want to give up. With his will, millions of stars gathered together to form a magnificent river of stars which flowed ferociously towards the direction of Lin Feng.

But, once again, the dimension was distorted. The vast galaxy of stars turned into a small stream of water as it fell on the umbrella. Leaving a small trace on the surface of the umbrella, the stream of water slid off the edge of the umbrella, unable to reach Lin Feng at all.

The Stellar Holy Man stared at the black umbrella above Lin Feng's head. He was dumbfounded. After a long while, he finally mustered the ability to speak, "It cannot be destroyed in any ways whatsoever? It's completely invincible?"

Lin Feng continued to hold the umbrella and walk calmly ahead. He saw all the things that the Stellar Holy Man did, but he merely smiled and his sight fell on the huge black umbrella above him. It was as though it shielded him from the entire sky.

Meanwhile, beneath the umbrella, it was a different world altogether.

Let the hurricane and thunderstorm rage on in the outside world, but with my umbrella, a single raindrop could not reach me.

Let the Heaven and Earth be destroyed in the outside world, but with my umbrella, nothing could hurt me.

He had an umbrella that protected its owner from all the trials and tribulations for the eternity. So why should it matter to him if it were a hurricane and thunderstorm, or the Destruction of Heaven and Earth?

This umbrella, it was called, the Sky-shielding Umbrella.

Lin Feng held the Sky-shielding Umbrella and marched forward without any obstacles ahead. Within a few steps, the sea of stars in

front of his eyes began to be wiped out. The pitch-black universe, the twinkling stars all vanished in their entirety. Everything returned to what it was like on Mount Xingyun.

Lin Feng exited the rock cave. Xiao Budian and Yue Hongyan came over to greet him, "Greetings, my master."

"You have all done well," Lin Feng nodded approvingly. Xiao Budian stared at the Sky-shielding Umbrella above Lin Feng's head curiously, "Master, why are you holding an umbrella?"

Lin Feng laughed, "I didn't use the umbrella for myself, but rather for someone else."

Xiao Budian and the rest were perplexed. Behind Lin Feng, the Stellar Holy Man had come out of the cave with a countenance that plainly revealed his slight displeasure. After hearing Lin Feng's words, he stopped moving and looked at Lin Feng's Sky-shielding Umbrella in a contemplative manner.

If one were to say that the Cosmic Charm was a trial for Lin Feng, the Sky-shielding Umbrella would be Lin Feng's way of returning the favor.

I have found a way to counter your charm, but could you break the powers of my umbrella?

The Stellar Holy Man hesitated for a while but still could not decide if he should make a move to challenge Lin Feng. If he

revealed his Immortal Soul avatar, both of them would be risking their lives. He and Lin Feng had no deep hatred between them, there was no need to fight to the death.

The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster appeared beside him soundlessly. His sight did not leave Lin Feng's Sky-shielding Umbrella; his stare was like two swords leaving their sheaths.

"I have the urge to try if my sword can penetrate his umbrella," the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster said quietly.

The Stellar Holy Man did not doubt that at all, "You are a Sword Cultivator, it's unsurprising for you to have such a thought."

After standing quietly for a while, the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster shook his head rather regretfully, "I think I will have to give this a miss. I will find an opportunity in the future."

"What wish did Wu Qingrou make for you to cause you to be so encumbered and hesitant?" the Stellar Holy Man asked curiously.

The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster remained silent for a moment, before saying, "You will find out in the future."

The Stellar Holy Man did not press on. He nodded and spoke no more.

Even though Lin Feng could not understand the conversation between the two Immortal Soul masters, he could palpably feel

that the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster had the urge to challenge him.

He could feel that the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster eventually, like the Stellar Holy Man, chose to give up. Lin Feng curled his lips secretly, evidently disappointed.

He was not trying to be flamboyant; he genuinely hoped that either of the Immortal Soul masters would test the defence of the Sky-shielding Umbrella.

And that was because, once shielded by the Sky-shielding Umbrella, while Lin Feng's personal safety was guaranteed, he could not use his powers to attack his opponents.

The Sky-shielding Umbrella's power insulation worked both ways, that means both parties on either sides of the umbrella could not hurt each other.

But its defensive ability was impeccable and definitely satisfactory. It could withstand thousands of trials and spells and charms and still would not give way.

Lin Feng was 80 per cent confident that if the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster or the Stellar Holy Man exhausted their powers to attack the umbrella, their efforts would be in vain, and they might even injure themselves severely.

But both of them had suppressed the urge to engage in a fight.

Lin Feng was mildly disappointed, but he quickly cast aside this bit of negativity as his attention shifted to the battle before him.

The battle between Xiao Yan and Prince Chong Yun was now in its throes.

The Nascent Soul Stage weapon, Heaven and Earth Mirror, given to Xiao Yan had already been used in the battle. With the Heaven and Earth mirror as a defense, the two Primordial Flames as an attack, coupled with the Black Cloud Flag's space-shifting ability to aid his movement, Xiao Yan had already exhausted his means in the battle against Prince Chong Yun.

Similarly, Prince Chong Yun was using his powers. A dragon figure flashing golden light was hovering non-stop on his head as he was engaged in the battle against Xiao Yan.

As the Crown Prince of the Great Qin, he had many treasures, much less Nascent Soul Stage weapons. Even the mantras and skills he learned were among the best. Even though he was a Beginner Nascent Soul Cultivator, and Xiao Yan was a Beginner Aurous Core Cultivator, he was clearly having the lead at the moment.

Xiao Yan looked excited. Save for the instances he challenged his seniors and juniors during practice sessions, he had not had such an exciting battle in a long while. The prior battle at the outskirts of Shazhou city with Master Cyclone was nowhere as thrilling as the one transpiring before his eyes now with Prince Chong Yun.

Under Prince Chong Yun's pressure, Xiao Yan had used up all of his tricks, and he had seemingly outdone himself.

"Let's make this a good battle!" two flames, one golden one purple, flashed in his pupils. He clasped his hands together – the Grand Sun Primordial Flame and the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire began to merge!

The same thing that took place in Mount Yujing not too long ago was going to happen again.

The tremor created was so frightening that it shook the entire mountain as the mountain became unstable. Sword of Radiance Sect's mountain protection formation, the Cloud-sky Sword of Radiance Formation, was once again activated, this time the response was greater than when Xiao Budian battled.

Even the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster and the Stellar Holy Man could not help themselves, "Are you trying to merge both Primordial Flames? This is madness!"

"You are a loony!" Prince Chong Yun who was facing Xiao Yan directly must have felt the extent of that destructive power more palpably.

Xiao Yan was using the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams to its optimum level. His ten fingers moved nimbly as he cast one spell after another onto the merging Primordial Flames.

Lin Feng's previous teachings rang beside his ears, "The Heavenly Stings of the Grand Sun Primordial Flame are originally stable, but become explosive only after coming into contact with the enemy. When merging, you must keep controlling it to make sure it continues to be stable."

"The Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire burns fiercely throughout and is wild. Do not attempt to tame it or suppress its unique characteristics, instead guide it effectively and ensure that it burns at a level that you are able to control."

"However mad, however powerful the forces are, it boils down to your being able to control and harness. After all, man controls the fire, not the other way round."

Xiao Yan spun his head and saw that Lin Feng was standing under the Sky-shielding Umbrella smiling at him.

"Master, I have succeeded!" Xiao Yan took a deep breath, and suddenly put his hands together. The ferocious flames suddenly abated. Before the impressive looks of everyone present, the flames condensed into a Purple-golden Lotus the size of Xiao Yan's palm.

The Purple-golden Lotus took shape. Xiao Yan tossed it at Prince Chong Yun without hesitation.

"Boom!"

Amidst the ear-splitting explosive sound, everyone's vision was

filled with purple-golden colour flame light. Nothing else could be seen.

The next moment, waves of fire rose high up into the sky, as though a gigantic hole had been burnt into the sky.

A huge part of the golden fog hovering above Mount Xingyun for thousands of years immediately disappeared. The fire was so strong that the fog immediately evaporated into thin air, leaving not a single trace of it.

Zhao Yan and the group of Sword of Radiance Sect's Aurous Core disciples were dumbstruck. Deep down, they were still reeling from the shock they just felt, "Can't believe that we almost wanted to challenge this freak of nature."

Purple Cloud Grandmaster and the other Nascent Soul Grandmasters looked on solemnly. Purple Cloud and Red Cloud, two Intermediate Nascent Soul Grandmasters might be able to survive this blast, but they could not escape the fate of a life-threatening injury.

Azure Clouds Grandmaster and the other Beginner Nascent Soul Cultivators looked even more worried. They momentarily realised that if they were to take Xiao Yan on individually, and that Xiao Yan had used this move, they might not have survived it.

Even those from the Celestial Sect of Wonders, who were on Xiao Yan's side, were too shocked to say anything. Tuntun swallowed, secretly glad that she did not press him at Mount Yujing,

otherwise, she might be banished to the Ring Dimension again.

The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster and the Stellar Holy Man were clearly uncomfortable, "He had accomplished so much as a Beginner of the Aurous Core Stage..." They looked at Lin Feng at the same time and saw that Lin Feng was slightly glad despite his relatively mild expression and nodding his head gently.

Witnessing this, the two Immortal Soul masters' hearts sank, "Even the disciple is so impressive, much less his master!"

After a long moment, the flame dispersed, revealing an embarrassing figure that was howling dolorously like a werewolf.

Chapter 253: The Battle Has Come

The impact of Xiao Yan's attack lingered on for a long while before it dissipated gradually. Within the waves of burning fire, a figure revealed itself – he was Prince Chong Yun.

At this point, he resembled a wounded lone wolf, looking as brutal as ever.

Even though he was in a most embarrassing situation, he did not seem to be injured. His face was covered with dirt and filth; his Four Dragons Robe was torn beyond repair.

However, all the spectators present were able to tell that this robe he was wearing was actually a Nascent Soul Stage weapon that combined the abilities to attack and defend, making it an unprecedentedly powerful magic item.

And it was this robe that shielded Xiao Yan from this immensely destructive strike. But now, this robe was completely defunct, having lost all of its powers, and there was no way the powers could be restored or the robe repaired.

A Nascent Soul Stage magic item was destroyed completely by Xiao Yan's previous strike immediately!

Prince Chong Yun stared intently at Xiao Yan with a murderous look. He did not speak a word and waved his arm. Suddenly, a flash of black-purple sword radiance flew to the sky.

When this flash of black-purple sword radiance appeared, concern was registered on the expressions of everyone present.

Only a magic treasure could release so much power. It felt almost as though the sky were going to be split into halves.

Although he refused to admit, Prince Chong Yun actually felt threatened by Xiao Yan whose training and skills were a far cry from him. He therefore resorted to unleashing the Evil Shadow Sword that he always carried with him.

Purple-black sword radiance suddenly spread apart in the sky, like fairies scattering petals of flowers, shrouding the entire sky. The ubiquitous sword radiance formed a huge enchanted barrier, shrouding Xiao Yan and Prince Chong Yun within.

Someone from the Nascent Soul Stage having to use a magic treasure in a fight against another from the Aurous Core Stage was supposedly amusing, but none of those present felt that Prince Chong Yun's action was disproportionate nor unjustified. Recalling the powerful blow executed by Xiao Yan, everyone was still reeling from shock and fear.

Lin Feng felt that he could let Prince Chong Yun humiliate his own disciple. Disregarding the fact that Xiao Yan's power just hit an all-time low after executing that last blow, even if Xiao Yan were in his prime, he was still no match for the magic treasure. After all, he was now only a beginner in the Aurous Core Stage.

Holding the Sky-shielding Umbrella, Lin Feng briefly scanned the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster and the Stellar Holy Man and flicked his finger gently. A red ball of fire entered the space that Prince Chong Yun's Evil Shadow Sword sealed off.

The Stellar Holy Man was silent. Indeed, the wheel of fortune was always turning. Just a while ago, he attempted to stop Lin Feng from interfering with the battle between Xiao Yan and Prince Chong Yun. But now, things had changed. Instead, he was wary of Lin Feng's existence and did not dare to interfere with the battle as he wished.

What caught his and the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster's attention was that the Red Fireball flicked by Lin Feng directly penetrated the enchanted barrier set up by the Evil Shadow Sword Radiance.

The Evil Shadow Sword is a sword device; its primary powers lay in its attacking ability and not in its ability in creating enchanted barriers to insulate a space from the outside world.

However, the fact that it could be penetrated easily only demonstrated the extraordinariness of the Red Fireball.

They believed that, based on Lin Feng's status and character, he would not directly aid his disciple in attacking Prince Chong Yun or take on Prince Chong Yun alongside his disciple.

Paying close attention to the Red Fireball, the two Immortal Soul cultivators discovered that within the fireball hid a violently

destructive power. It vaguely releases an awe belonging to the Dragon Tribe, striking fear in the hearts of many. With an earth-shattering surge of power, it must be an Immortal Soul magic treasure.

The fireball penetrated the space surrounded by the enchanted barrier, immediately transforming into a set of blazing full-body armor. Its unrelenting power expanded ceaselessly, causing the entire barricaded space to inch towards collapse and destruction.

This set of armor was precisely the Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor created by Lin Feng.

Originally, Lin Feng's Avatar of Ares was supposed to be inside the Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor. The Avatar of Ares and the armor were supposed to merge as one to form the complete Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor. But Lin Feng delivered the armor into the barricaded space not with the intention of settling the battle himself.

As he controlled with his mental will, the Avatar of Ares quickly shrunk and entered directly the Zhuyan Demon Eye located in front of the chest armor.

The Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor made an ear-splitting roar, and latched itself onto Xiao Yan's body.

The armor transformed itself automatically to fit Xiao Yan's body. Indeed, the armor fit Xiao Yan perfectly well – the headgear which resembled the dragon head covered all of Xiao Yan's facial

features, leaving only his eyes visible. Flames danced in his pupils, one of them golden and the other purple, replete with the potential and the power to wreak havoc.

As it was his first time synthesizing the merging of two Primordial Flames, it was inevitable that Xiao Yan was not entirely skilled at it. Not only was his powers completely exhausted, his soul also sustained some damage, causing his head to be in splitting pain.

But now that the Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor was latched onto Xiao Yan's body, its immense powers momentarily revived Xiao Yan's Primordial Flame Aurous Core. His entire state of mind became unprecedentedly clear.

He bellowed loudly at the sky, like a dragon's roar penetrating the heavens. By then, his powers were already as one with the magic treasure. Behind the armor, a thunderous noise was heard as a pair of gigantic wings covered in flames extended themselves.

One of the wings was purple while the other was golden, and they were formed by the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire and the Grand Sun Primordial Flame respectively. Their impressiveness was unparalleled – each wing spanned miles, and when they were both extended at the same time, they could cover the sky.

The space surrounded by the enchanted barrier, which was created by the Evil Shadow Sword Radiance, was instantly destroyed. Prince Chong Yun was worried. He gestured with his fingers. Immediately, the shattered Evil Shadow Sword Radiance

evolved, transforming itself into an infinite number of Sword Shadows populating the sky.

Every black-purple Sword Shadow transcended the void and was directed at Xiao Yan with lethal impact. Countless Sword Shadows were woven together, and they fell upon Xiao Yan in a crushing and endless fashion. The void within miles was sliced into pieces.

When Zhao Yan and the Sword of Radiance Sect's disciples witnessed this, their expressions immediately changed. When Prince Chong Yun wielded his magic treasure, the Evil Shadow Sword, to launch attacks, the impact of every Sword Shadow was much greater than that of Zhao Yan when he wielded the most lethal attack of the Radiant Clouds Sword Technique in the battle with Xiao Budian.

Prince Chong Yun's single attack was tantamount to millions of Zhao Yan launching full attacks at the same time.

Being up against this sword technique, even Xiao Yan was impressed, "The magic treasure's potential is indeed shocking."

But he was unafraid, for he was donning Lin Feng's Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor!

Shi Chong Yun was not the only one with magic treasure, after all.

Xiao Yan extended his armor-covered arms forward. Suddenly,

the armors on his left and right hands lit up with fire at the same time. On one side was the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire, while on the other was the Grand Sun Primordial Flame.

Under the godly powers of the Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor, fiery flames extended from his arms, forming two massive dragon claws made of the two Primordial Flames.

Xiao Yan spread open his arms. The two massive claws held close to each other in front of his chest were separated. As he swung his extended arms, the impact was so strong as though it would shatter the heaven and Earth. Instantly, the ubiquitous Sword Shadows by the Evil Shadow Sword were destroyed.

It was as though a person held a tattered cloth, and used all of his might to tear it apart from the center of the cloth.

Witnessing this scene, Prince Chong Yun was more concerned and worried than before. With a gesture of his finger, a flash of black-purple sword radiance hovered mid-air before him. It revealed its original self – an old common sword replete with evilness. The tip of the sword pointed right at Xiao Yan.

The blade of the Evil Shadow Sword resembled a black mass of shadow. It vibrated non-stop in mid-air, as though it were not in solid form. But the blade was so sharp that everyone present could sense its lethality and the bloody havoc it could wreak.

Xiao Yan looked at Prince Chong Yun and the Evil Shadow Sword coldly without any hint of fear. Every piece of armor around his

body vibrated non-stop as though they were imbued with life. The Mighty Auspicious Clouds exclusive to the Dragon Tribe arose beside him, threatening Prince Chong Yun unyieldingly.

Right at that moment, Lin Feng, the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster, and the Stellar Holy Man could sense something amiss, as they looked towards the distant sky at the same time.

The sky suddenly cracked open and an elderly clothed in a simple manner walked out of the crevice slowly. The elderly stood in the void and stopped moving forward. Instead, he put his hands together to greet Lin Feng, the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster and the Stellar Holy Man.

"Greetings to Lord Lin, Supreme Radiance Swordmaster and Stellar Holy Man, " he bowed to each of them, and then greeted Prince Chong Yun, "Huang Jiugong pays his respect to Your Highness."

Prince Chong Yun did not bother to turn around, his eyes remained transfixed on Xiao Yan. He said impatiently, "Huang Jiugong, what are you doing here?"

Huang Jiugong, the elderly man, replied calmly, "Prime Minister Wu received news regarding Your Highness's concubine. It seemed that His Majesty has decided on the lady. I am just here on Prime Minister Wu's order to give Your Highness a heads up."

Prince Chong Yun's demeanor changed immediately. He could not even be bothered about Xiao Yan. He quickly turned his head

to look at Huang Jiugong.

Huang Jiugong's demeanor was respectful, but he did not cower in the face of Chong Yun's wolf-like stare. His stare remained as calm as ever.

Dead silence permeated the entire Xingyun Peak. Everyone kept quiet, held their breaths, and fixed their state on the two individuals in the sky – Prince Chong Yun and Huang Jiugong.

A grin appeared on Lin Feng's face. Undoubtedly, Huang Jiugong must be Prime Minister Wu Qingrou's subordinate.

Even though it was never made explicit, many of those involved knew that the reason Prince Chong Yun came to Xingyun Peak was that the Sword of Radiance Sect brought up Murong Yanran's marriage.

He picked on Xiao Yan was, to a large extent, also because of Murong Yanran.

What Huang Jiugong just did or, to be more precise, what Wu Qingrou just did, was as good as giving Prince Chong Yun a resounding slap in his face in front of Lin Feng, the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster and the rest.

The power play in the empire and the confusion related to the succession of the throne were made public entirely.

"What is Wu Qingrou really trying to do?" Lin Feng looked at Prince Chong Yun with great interest, "Could it be that Shi Chong Yun's title as the Prince of the empire is now at stake?"

Prince Chong Yun took a deep breath, and asked with a deep voice, "Who's it?"

Huang Jiugong uttered a name. It was neither Murong nor Yanran.

An ambivalent smile appeared on Prince Chong Yun's face. He said darkly, "Wu Qingrou... Wu Qingrou... tsk!"

"Let's go!" he shouted suddenly, ready to leave with the Evil Shadow Sword. With a blink of an eye, he vanished into thin air.

Huang Jiugong sighed, and quickly followed him. Prince Chong Yun's followers also quickly left with Huang Jiugong.

Xiao Yan looked at the direction where Prince Chong Yun disappeared. Prince Chong Yun's wolfish voice rang beside his ears, "So, you are Xiao Yan? I concede that you are quite impressive. But this is only the start, I would love to see if the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders can protect you for the rest of your life!"

Xiao Yan frowned. He did not say a word but merely smiled coldly. He knew very clear deep down that this would not be his last battle with the Prince of the Great Qin Empire.

He descended onto the ground. The Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor had disappeared completely. Just as he wanted to report to Lin Feng, his heart skipped a beat, as he looked at the other side.

There, a girl in white was walking over slowly. That was Murong Yanran.

Murong Yanran came to the front of the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster and paid her respect gracefully. She did not say a word.

The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster was expressionless. He said slowly, "Don't worry about it. The battle was inevitable; it was only a matter of time. The few days don't make any difference."

"Yanran is indebted to the sect and the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster. Thank you for your forgiveness," Murong Yanran stood up; her gaze at Xiao Yan was steady and calm.

"The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster, Murong family, Murong Yanran, send their greetings to Senior Xiao."

Chapter 254: Three-Step Plan

Murong Yanran was daring to take on the challenge not because she had a plan to defeat the opponent, but merely because she knew that it would do her no good to drag this on. She would be better off agreeing to the battle and to settle the issue early on.

Therefore, it was a battle that ended before it had even started.

Murong Yanran did not adopt a pessimistic attitude. She gave her best as soon as the battle started. Unfortunately, at this point, she and Xiao Yan were not on the same level.

The Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor was unnecessary, neither was the Nefarious Almighty Sword, nor the two Primordial Flames, nor the Heaven and Earth Mirror, nor the Black Cloud Flag.

Despite having fought a tough battle with Prince Chong Yun prior to that, Xiao Yan could still overpower Murong Yanran easily with his own Mana and Abhijna.

All the Sword of Radiance Sect disciples turned their heads; they could not bring themselves to witness the outcome of the battle.

The colors on Murong Yanran's face had drained completely, but she still held on stubbornly, unwilling to collapse. Xiao Yan and she were one step apart; they stared at each other face-to-face, akin to a couple from afar.

However, in reality, between this man and woman, the attraction was zilch.

"Speaking from the bottom of my heart, during that time, I admit that I looked down on you because of your ability then. But today, it is clear as day that I was short-sighted then."

Murong Yanran looked at Xiao Yan stubbornly, knowing very well that even her Master was not his opponent, much less her. And now that she had witnessed Xiao Yan's vast powers after combining the two Primordial Flames, she believed that even her Grandmaster, Azure Clouds Grandmaster was not his opponent.

"However, as I have said before, even if time rewinds itself, I would still choose to go to the Xiao's family to reject the marriage proposal! This is my marriage; I don't need them to decide for me. To have to be by a stranger's side for the rest of life is something I can never do."

Xiao Yan's expression was one of weariness. He said calmly and rather emotionlessly, "Neither can I be with a stranger for the rest of my life."

"As such, I never blamed you for rejecting the marriage proposal. I just think that the way you chose the method of rejection was wrong. Unfortunately, arrogant as you are, you would not understand."

"However, as it stands today, arguing who is to blame is

meaningless. I also don't need you to slog for me. After today, we will go our separate ways without crossing paths."

"Initially, I thought that even though I did not want you to slog for me, I still wanted you to admit your mistake and concede defeat in public to make up for the shame you brought to my family. Now that I think about it, that won't be necessary and is no longer important. The outcome could not have been clearer. The rest, the world will judge for themselves."

Xiao Yan sighed softly. Three years of hard work finally brought him today's victory. He felt relieved as though the weight pressing against his chest all these years had been removed.

"The promise to meet after three years has now come to an end, Murong Yanran."

Xiao Yan howled at the sky. The Primordial Flame Golden Elixir vibrated non-stop in his body. Raging fire ignited and burned from his body.

The facial expressions of the Purple Cloud Grandmaster, Azure Cloud Grandmaster and company changed slightly. Zhao Yan and the Sword of Radiance Sect disciples seemed even more worried.

They had also experienced it, so they could tell that the raging fire surrounding Xiao Yan was not the product of his individual Mana, but because he extracted the fire and spiritual energy from the external dimension and transformed them into raging fire.

Being able to manipulate the spiritual energy in the heaven and earth for one's own use was the realm of mastery of the Intermediate Aurous Core Stage!

In the battle with Prince Chong Yun, he pushed his limits to the extreme; in the battle with Murong Yanran, he found closure after all these years. After achieving tremendous progress in his powers and state of mind, he succeeded in reaching the middle level of the Aurous Core Stage!

The Tribulations of the Yin Fire that made so many Cultivators of the initial level of the Aurous Core Stage cower seemed to have little effect on Xiao Yan. Xiao Yan overcome them easily, as though he were walking on a flat land. They did not seem to affect him at all.

The raging fires lit up Murong Yanran's pretty face, accentuating the sense of loss and helplessness written on her face. Her cheeks were not rosy at all, but seemed to grow paler with each second.

Amidst the raging fire, Xiao Yan turned around to where Lin Feng stood. He collapsed onto his knees before Lin Feng with his head buried in the ground.

He did not utter a single word but everyone present could understand how Xiao Yan felt at that precise moment.

Lin Feng smiled slightly. He extended his arm and gestured to the air to help Xiao Yan up. Xiao Yan was dragged to his feet.

Everyone from the Sword of Radiance Sect looked at the Master and his student, feeling puzzled and bothered.

Red Cloud Grandmaster's gaze suddenly shifted to Xiao Budian and Yue Hongyan who were in a corner. After a long while, he sighed, "A rather deserved defeat."

The Azure Cloud Grandmaster was livid and remained silent. The Purple Cloud Grandmaster pondered, "The Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders is really biased towards his own disciple..."

The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster took a look at Murong Yanran. He suddenly waved his arm; a flash of white light coiled around Murong Yanran and swept her off her feet.

"From today onwards, Murong Yanran is my Immediate Disciple. I will pass on my Mantra and sword technique to her directly and teach her myself."

All of the Sword of Radiance Sect disciples were shocked, even the Purple Cloud Grandmaster and the other Nascent Soul Grandmasters were taken by surprise. The Azure Cloud Grandmaster was even dumbfounded.

No one would have thought that a completely humiliating defeat could bring so much fortune to Murong Yanran that she became the immediate disciple of the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster.

Outsiders might not have known, but they knew very clearly that

the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster had not accepted any Immediate Disciple in hundreds of years.

And the most unbelievable of all was that the lucky one in hundreds of years was actually also the one who brought so much shame to the Sword of Radiance Sect.

Lin Feng turned around and beamed at the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster. The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster, who usually wore a stern expression, started to smile slightly, except that his eyes flashed with a sense of competitiveness.

Lin Feng laughed and tilted his head, "Xiao Yan, for you, it is the end. But for someone else, this is only the beginning."

By now the fire on Xiao Yan's body had extinguished. He stood diagonally behind Lin Feng and smirked after hearing that, "If I can defeat her once, I can defeat her for the rest of her life."

"What an admirable spirit," the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster said noncommittally while his gaze never left Lin Feng, "There are many places of attraction on Peak Xingyun, Lord Lin should take a tour around this area."

Lin Feng laughed, "The younger ones can do that. Meanwhile, I am more inclined to have some meaningful exchanges with the Leader of the Sword of Radiance Sect."

Here, there was no intention to challenge the Leader of the

Sword of Radiance Sect. It was purely an exchange for the sake of learning. Of course, if the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster wanted to battle Lin Feng, Lin Feng would not mind taking him on in an actual battle.

Prior to this, in the exchanges with the Stellar Holy Man, Lin Feng gained a lot of exposure and acquired some new understanding about the Immortal Soul Stage. To him, it was a rewarding experience.

Naturally, the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster did not misunderstand Lin Feng's intention. He looked at Lin Feng closely; Lin Feng could sense his intention to take on him deep down, but the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster suppressed this urge forcefully.

"Let the younger ones move around as they please. Lord Lin, shall we?"

Xiao Budian still had not extinguished his powers. He still stood on the ground with his thirty-feet tall Thunderstorm Demon and God figure. After hearing the conversation between Lin Feng and the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster, he turned his head immediately to look at Zhan Yan and growled in a deep voice, "Four Red-feathered Crane. Don't forget, it's four!"

Tuntun, who was beside, nodded strongly. After pondering for a short while, she added, "Tianhao, add another two!"

Xiao Budian heard this and immediately bargained, "Make it six

now!"

The entire group of Sword of Radiance Sect disciples stared at the sky speechlessly; Purple Cloud Grandmaster and company also twitched their lips.

Zhao Yan's expression darkened, "I can't believe I just lost to a glutton!"

Lin Feng, who was preparing to leave, had the urge to facepalm and sigh in embarrassment after hearing this.

As the battle between Prince Chong Yun and Xiao Yan was too overwhelming and impressive, the battle later with Murong Yanran was, in contrast, rather anti-climactic. But perhaps it was precisely because of this that the Sword of Radiance Sect felt better about the defeat.

Now that the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster accepted Murong Yanran as his Immediate Disciple, and even though he said nothing about the decision, everyone could tell that this Immortal Soul Cultivator intended to pass on his skills to Murong Yanran himself, hoping that one-day Murong Yanran could avenge herself and salvage the situation.

It seemed that the Sword of Radiance Sect had to swallow the embarrassment they suffered today.

Lin Feng was curious. Since he accompanied Xiao Yan to this

place, he had actually mentally prepared himself for a battle against the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster. But, surprisingly, it was the indomitable Immortal Soul Sword Cultivator who shied away.

Of course, it was not because the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster was afraid. In his dictionary, the word "cower" did not exist. If it did, he would not have reached the Immortal Soul Stage.

Lin Feng was confused, "What wish exactly did Wu Qingrou make for the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster to make the Sword Cultivator hold himself back?"

What Wu Qingrou's real intention was, Lin Feng was merely curious. But to Prince Chong Yun, he was angry beyond control.

Not too far from Xingyun Peak, Prince Chong Yun stopped in his track and turned to look at Huang Jiugong calmly.

Those who knew him well knew that as soon as the invariably unreasonable and vicious Prince calmed himself down, that would only portend an upcoming thunderstorm that would be more violent.

Huang Jiugong naturally knew about it. He immediately took out a circular plate and injected some of his mana. Soft light flashed on the plate's surface and projected a figure mid-air.

It was a scholar in his thirties clothed in cloth robe. He looked

simple and elegant; his features were refined; he had a deep look in his eyes. He seemed as accommodating as the sea is able to accommodate everything. But at the same time, he was unfathomable and mysterious.

Prince Chong Yun looked at the middle-aged scholar quietly, "Prime Minister Wu, this time round you are making things difficult for me."

The middle-aged scholar was the first-generation Prime Minister of the Great Qin, one who was able to lead the Great Qin Court despite being a mere mortal. He was Wu Qingrou.

Upon hearing this, Wu Qingrou said nonchalantly, "This is only the first step of the plan. Your Highness needs not be overly anxious."

Prince Chong Yun fixed his stare at Wu Qingrou for a long while, "Is it? May I ask you then, Prime Minister Wu, how many steps there are in your plan?"

"Three steps," Wu Qingrou replied calmly.

Suddenly, Prince Chong Yun calmed down completely. It was not a calm before the storm, but his state of mind was actually completely calm and relaxed.

Perhaps his brashness and irascibility were defects in his personality. But to be able to be where he was today, he was not

entirely uncivilized. When he felt that the other party was inferior to him, he would be extremely arrogant; but when he met someone whom he valued, Prince Chong Yun could actually remain calm.

"Prime Minister Wu's three steps are directed at me, or at others?"

Prince Chong Yun suddenly asked that question. And when Wu Qingrou heard it, a smile was carved out on his face.

He said unhurriedly, "Directed at those who are inimical to the Great Qin Empire."

Prince Chong Yun's eyes flashed. He said contemplatively, "The first step is to publicize the conflict between you and me by embarrassing me in public. This is to give people the false impression that my succession to the throne is threatened... ... Nah, I don't think it is this simple."

He suddenly lifted his head, looked at Wu Qingrou and said slowly, "You want to make people believe that you are at odds with the Great Qin royal family, that you intend to counter and usurp the ruler's power?"

Wu Qingrou said indifferently, "And I want whom to believe this?"

Chapter 255: Each With His Own Plan

Wu Qingrou's tone was like a teacher gently and patiently guiding the student to enlighten him.

On other occasions, regardless of how wary Prince Chong Yun was of Wu Qingrou, if he had used this tone to talk to him, Prince Chong Yun would lose his temper.

However, right now, Prince Chong Yun remained as calm as before, his gaze not leaving Wu Qingrou.

Behind him, the Stellar Holy Man also stared at Wu Qingrou's projection in the air. His eyes flashed with incomprehensibility, "Is Wu Qingrou really showing his cards, or is this yet another subterfuge?"

"Apart from the Four Great Aristocratic Families and the major sects in the Great Qin, I can't think of anyone else," Prince Chong Yun said quietly.

Wu Qingrou nodded, "Yes, you're right about it. For an empire to flourish, central power must be concentrated, the ruler and his officials must be united as one. The Great Zhou Empire is an emphatic example."

He sighed softly, "The power of the Great Zhou Empire is still expanding at a fast pace. If the Great Qin continues to be divided internally, it will only be taken over by the Great Zhou."

Prince Chong Yun's eyes flashed, but he did not say anything.

As everyone knew, only a hundred years ago, the Great Qin Empire was still the most prosperous empire in the Divine Lands, even more prosperous than the Great Zhou.

However, in only a hundred years, the Great Zhou developed at a rapid rate while the Great Qin stagnated. Eventually, it was overtaken completely by the Great Zhou Empire.

During the Buddha-destroying Battle, the Great Zhou Empire was the biggest winner and reaped the greatest benefit. Its power grew by leaps and bounds, eclipsing the Great Qin entirely.

"Remove the power of the Aristocratic Families, strengthen the central executive power – this will be the second step in your plan," Prince Chong Yun asked, "So what is the third step?"

Wu Qingrou answered, "The Four Great Aristocratic Families are the leaders, with many other Aristocratic Families supporting them. It will not be easy to remove them from power. The second step, at best, is to suppress and weaken them. Tangible actions will only be taken in the third step."

"At the same time, the third step will get rid of the greatest obstacle to this plan."

Prince Chong Yun's eyes twinkled, "The Shi family, the Man with

Polycoria!"

To the royal family of the Great Qin Empire, their relationship with the Shi family was one that was complicated. The Shi family was related to the royal family, and at the same time, it would deal with matters on behalf of the royal family.

However, it was also precisely because the Shi family was related to the royal family that the Great Qin Empire royal family was wary of it. Alas, the Shi family had constantly given birth to the Sons of God. Especially with the recent birth of the Man with Polycoria, the Shi family had once again given birth to another Son of God, thus cementing its position as the greatest Aristocratic Family in the Great Qin.

As the royal descendants were limited, rumors circulated internally regarding Shi Tianyi's succession were rampant.

Prince Chong Yun said, "I have to admit, among those in my generation, the Man of Polycoria is giving me a huge deal of pressure. As long as he lives, I cannot live in peace."

He paused for a while, before continuing calmly, "From today onwards, Xiao Yan from the Celestial Sect of Wonders is someone to be reckoned with."

Wu Qingrou smiled slightly, "There is something I have not told you. A while ago, in your Highness's name, I put in the effort to nurture and look after the Xiao family in Wuzhou where Xiao Yan was born."

Prince Chong Yun registered his displeasure but did not say anything.

Wu Qingrou continued to say, "That can be considered part of the first step of the plan. Establishing an amicable relationship with the Celestial Sect of Wonders will ease the implementation of the third step."

He sniggered, "The youngest disciple of the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, Shi Tianhao, I believe Your Highness is aware of his background."

"Of course I am. That Man of Polycoria can accomplish so much today is at least partially attributed to the assistance and support he received from the little girl," Prince Chong Yun said, "It's just that I did not expect that the kid whom we thought was doomed could survive till today."

"Not only has he lived till today, he has also mastered considerable powers. Having reached the Aurous Core Stage despite being merely more than ten years old, he must be one of the few rare gems since the inception of human history."

At this point, Prince Chong Yun changed the focus of his conversation, "But at present, his powers are still no match for the Man with Polycoria."

Wu Qingrou said nonchalantly, "Before today, Your Highness never thought that Xiao Yan would be that difficult to deal with

right?"

These words were as good as sprinkling salt at Prince Chong Yun's wound. His face darkened momentarily, but he did not blow his top. He merely snorted coldly.

Wu Qingrou sighed, his eyes alert, "I wonder how the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders did this. I am not too surprised that he managed to groom such a talent. But his disciples are all devilish and aberrant, now that is quite something."

"He is definitely not a simple person."

Prince Chong Yun's expression returned to normal. He said calmly, "He is also very biased. Judging from how he accompanied Xiao Yan to Xingyun peak for the meeting, we can tell that, in the future, when Shi Tianhao battles the Man with Polycopia, he will not stand aside and do nothing."

Prince Chong Yun looked at Wu Qingrou, "And this must be part of Prime Minister Wu's calculations to be used in the implementation of the third step of the plan?"

Wu Qingrou nodded calmly, "That is not definite. We can also rely on the authority of the Four Great Aristocratic Families to give the Celestial Sect of Wonders a difficult time."

"The Great Zhou Empire wants to establish good relations with the further countries, but attack the neighboring ones. It is

forming an alliance with the Mount Shu Sword Sect, Celestial Sect of Wonders and the likes to invade the Great Qin Empire, how can I sit here without doing anything?"

Prince Chong Yun mocked, "If Prime Minister Wu still takes into account the Great Zhou Empire, then you must know that when you are busy implementing your plan, the officials in the Great Zhou will definitely interfere and do something."

Wu Qingrou smiled slightly, "Your Highness, thank you for your reminder. Your Highness, however, can rest assured that when the time comes, the Great Zhou Empire will struggle to deal with their own problems, much less have the time and effort and disrupt our plan."

"Oh?" Prince Chong Yun curiosity was piqued, but he did not press him, "Between the political power of the Great Aristocratic Families and the Celestial Sect of Wonders, Prime Minister Wu plans to weaken the power of the former and strengthen the latter. Is that the case?"

Wu Qingrou answered, "Yes, precisely, you are right. If one party completely overpowers the other, this will only increase the power of the stronger party, contrary to my wishes. A pyrrhic outcome will be most beneficial to the Great Qin Empire."

Prince Chong Yun nodded his head, and examined Wu Qingrou closely, as though he wanted to see through him.

Wu Qingrou looked him in his eyes, his eyes still as unfathomable

as the sea.

Only after a long while, Prince Chong Yun averted his stare and said quietly, "Since Prime Minister Wu is so confident of the outcome, I will just wait patiently for good news." At this instance, he took a step forward, entered the void and vanished into thin air.

The Stellar Holy Man took a look at Wu Qingrou and sighed gently, "Prime Minister Wu's three steps don't just involve the Celestial Sect of Wonders and the political power of the Great Aristocratic Families."

Wu Qingrou smiled slightly, "Thank you for your compliment."

The Stellar Holy Man shook his head. He transformed into a ball of star light that scattered in the air."

In the Great Qin Empire's Jingshi Xiling City, in the North City Prime Minister's Residence, Wu Qingrou sat in his reading room, looking at the circular communication device as the light above the circular plate disappeared. He rapped the table gently without saying a word.

A young gentleman standing behind him suddenly asked, "Why did you pick Shi Chongyun?"

Wu Qingrou replied indifferently, "Because he is ambitious."

The gentleman followed up, "But I feel that he is one to cause

more problems than succeed."

"There is a huge flaw in Prince Chong Yun's character. And it is that he is arrogant and ill-tempered," Wu Qingrou said nonchalantly, "But unless he does not want to reach the Immortal Soul Stage, he will want to improve himself and rectify this flaw of his character, even without being told by others."

"Like what I just said, he is an ambitious man, so he will make the necessary changes. After this trip to Xingyun Peak, and after being humiliated by the disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, the process of self-improvement will only be expedited."

The gentleman was silent for a moment before continuing, "Why didn't you choose the Man with Polycoria?"

Wu Qingrou chuckled, "He will be of use elsewhere."

"Even you, my Big Senior, is concerned about the Celestial Sect of Wonders?" the gentleman's eyes flashed. His calm countenance could no longer conceal his surprise.

Wu Qingrou replied noncommittally, "In the Grand Celestial World, every tribe and living person of the Divine Lands concerns me."

The finger that was rapping the table stopped, "Go check on him. Even though I have made things clear with Shi Chongyun, I cannot guarantee that his temper won't get the better of him and that he

won't bother the Xiao family at Wuzhou city."

"With his identity and status, he needs only to say a few words and show some attitude to make the Xiao family suffer," a smile appeared on Wu Qingrou's face, "Naturally, Shi Chongyun will change for the better. But before he reaches the latter levels of the Nascent Soul Stage, he will not truly understand how arduous the mental test is in order to accomplish the Immortal Soul."

"Meanwhile, before that happens, we just have to put up with it."

The gentleman nodded, took a step backward, entered the Void, and disappeared completely.

In the royal palace of the Great Zhou Empire situated in Tianjing City, Liang Pan, the Emperor of the Zhou Empire, sat above the rest on his dragon throne. On the ground beneath, Yan Mingyue and Zhu Hongwu sat facing each other while Mei Wulang was standing before Liang Pan to report some recent news.

"... And this is the outcome of the battle," Mei Wulang finished his report to the emperor.

Liang Pan, the Emperor of the Zhou Empire, nodded and looked towards Mei Wulang, "Wulang, what do you make of this?" he paused before adding, "I am referring to the Celestial Sect of Wonders."

Mei Wulang quickly bowed and replied respectfully, "Your

Majesty, from this incident, we can tell that the Lin Feng, the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, is very protective of his disciples. A while back, I received news from the Celestial Sect of Wonders that Zhu Houye's son, Zhu Yi, will return to the Great Zhou to take part in this year's national exam."

"The Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders might perhaps come along like this time to my Great Zhou."

Yan Mingyue heard this and smiled but did not say anything.

Meanwhile, Zhu Hongwu sat as still as a wooden statue on his seat, as though the current topic of discussion did not interest him at all.

"Wulang, you might be wrong this time," Liang Pan shook his head gently, "If I am right, the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders will not come down himself."

He did not provide an explanation, and Mei Wulang did not dare to ask for one.

Both Yan Mingyue and Zhu Hongwu remained silent throughout but Liang Pan was not bothered about it. He merely sighed, "With the level of Mastery of an Aurous Core, they could, with one blow, destroy a Nascent Soul magic weapon. The disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders are indeed head and shoulders above the rest."

"From what we can observe, they are still at the stage of learning

and growth. When they have full matured, they will indeed be talents that are hard to come by."

"Lin Feng, the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, is really impressive," at this point, Liang Pan took a look at Zhu Hongwu, "we must also congratulate Hongwu, your son is one of them."

Zhu Hongwu rose up, "Thank you, your Majesty."

Liang Pan then looked at Yan Mingyue and said slowly, "Wishing Yan Xianzi the best in her journey to return to Mount Baiyun."

Yan Mingyue replied with a smile, "Thank you, Your Majesty, for those auspicious remarks."

She was slightly distracted, "The Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor... It took him such a short time to refine the Zhuyan Demon Eye into a Magic Treasure?"

Even if it were an Immortal Soul Cultivator refining the Magic Treasure, it would require a huge effort over an extended period of time to succeed. Many Magic Treasures may not be successfully refined even after hundreds, thousands, even tens of thousands of years.

"Lin Feng, where on earth did you come from?" Yan Mingyue frowned slightly, "And what is it that you intend to achieve?"

Yan Mingyue suddenly chuckled, "Perhaps you do not know this

yourself, but you will actually be a helping hand in my return to Mount Baiyun this time. I don't know why, but it seems like I am suddenly slightly afraid of you."

Chapter 256: Leading The Wolves Into One's Own House

To the north of Xingyun Peak was a large piece of flat land. On that land, there was a small lake.

Hundreds of gigantic cranes were resting in the middle of the lake. These cranes, if you measured them from their heads to the ground, were all above three meters in height, far exceeding that of similar species. They can even be ridden.

The tips of their feathers were all vermilion in color. They were a bird species indigenous to Xingyun Peak – the Red-feathered Crane.

These Red-feathered Cranes were bristling with spiritual energy. Copious amounts of magical powers flowed through their bodies. Apart from the nestlings, the majority of them had magical abilities belonging to that of the Demonic General category, which was similar to the Foundation Establishment Stage in the human realm.

Among them some had formed the Demonic Core, reaching the Demonic Commander stage. The leader of the pack of cranes was a very powerful Demonic Commander, with only a step away from forming the Demonic Soul and advancing to become a Demonic Lord.

The leader of cranes was still looking at his pack leisurely when his heart suddenly throbbed. He raised his head to observe his

surroundings, and heightened his senses to its extremities, but could not discover anything.

"Am I being too sensitive?" the Red-Feathered Crane leader shook his long neck, but still could not get rid of the sense of unease within, "I blame this on that human child, and that little Taotie!"

Whenever he thought of the six abducted pack members that still had not returned, the Red-feathered Crane leader trembled with fear. The other party had with them a Taotie, and that was indeed worrying. He had a nagging feeling that the six pack mates would perhaps never return.

It was very likely that the abductors took them not to ride on them, but to consume them as food.

"What the hell is the Sword of Radiance Sect doing? How could they treat us like this?" the Red-feathered Crane leader felt indignant. He thought, "This cannot be. I must remind my pack mates to be constantly vigilant. They should not wander beyond the lake, much less move around alone."

While he was thinking, he suddenly felt that something was amiss. He looked down, and was nearly frightened to death.

In front of him, a teenager in a purple shirt who was probably eleven or twelve years old was looking up at him, grinning.

The leader of the Red-feathered Crane almost wanted to shout

instantly.

The teenager in the purple shirt was none other than Xiao Budian. He reacted quickly by grabbing the Red-feathered Crane's long, slender beak. He clutched it tightly, refusing to let the bird open his beak.

The Red-feathered Crane leader was livid; he was ready to retaliate anytime. The Red-feathered Cranes may not be adept at battles, but their powers belonged to the peak of the Demonic Commander Stage. Even if they could not defeat Xiao Budian, they could at least create some commotion.

As long as the other Red-feathered Cranes were alerted, the Sword of Radiance Sect's disciple in charge of supervising this place will naturally be alerted. The outcome might change anytime as a result.

However, just when the Red-feathered Crane leader wanted to react, he felt that the demonic powers he released were like a clay ox entering the sea, gone without return. He could not create any impact nor draw any attention.

He looked down again. This time, he saw a beautiful little girl whose mouth was opened widely as though she were exhaling something. All the demonic powers that he was releasing were sucked into this little girl in their entirety.

Seeing this little girl, the Red-feathered Crane leader was even more fearful than when he saw Xiao Budian. This was because he

could remember her as the little Taotie who swallowed cranes along with their bones – Tuntun.

The Red-feathered Crane leader's demonic powers were constantly swallowed by Tuntun. He wanted to struggle, but Xiao Budian's other hand was already placed on his body.

Violent flows of electricity momentarily travelled through his entire body. He was shocked, causing him to tremble uncontrollably. His entire body felt numb, and he could not exert any strength at all, much less trying to move at all.

At this moment, what Tuntun said made the leader of the Red-feathered Crane sink into complete despair, "This guy here should be the most delicious out of all the Red-feathered Cranes. He has so much spiritual energy in him."

Xiao Budian said, "This is too little, I need more. Go catch some more," as he said this he increased the voltage of the electricity.

The leader's eyes rolled and he momentarily fainted. Before he lost his consciousness, the last thought in his head was, "All you Sword of Radiance Sect's bastards, you just brought the wolves to my home!"

After putting the leader out of consciousness, Xiao Budian and Tuntun continued to take out the other Red-feathered Cranes who had reached the Demonic Commander Stage.

The two of them had intended to capture all of the Demonic General Red-feathered Cranes. Eventually, they would also want to capture the nestlings as well.

"The nestlings lack spiritual energy, but their flesh is succulent," Tuntun was greedy and wanted to devour the hundred of Red-feathered Cranes.

Xiao Budian criticized Tuntun firmly, "Master said that we should not be too heartless. We should let some live on."

"At the very least, we should leave a male and female nestlings for the Sword of Radiance Sect, so that they can breed more in the future."

Unfortunately, reality always differed from expectations. They were overly optimistic because soon they felt magical powers exclusive to the Nascent Soul Stage approaching them.

While the human and the demon were unafraid of the approaching person, they were worried that the Sword of Radiance Sect's member would inform Lin Feng of their actions. They had to stop what they were doing and escape quickly with more than ten of the Red-feathered Cranes that they managed to capture.

When they fled back to where they stayed, they found Xiao Yan waiting for them with a wide grin.

Since she witnessed Xiao Yan's impressive powers after he

merged the two Primordial Flames, Tuntun felt timid when she saw him. She never forgot that she was partially blameable for Xiao Yan's fall from a genius to a loser.

"Big Senior, you're so free?" Xiao Budian walked towards him with a mischievous grin. Xiao Yan looked at him sternly, "So you stole people's Red-feathered Cranes, huh?"

Xiao Budian curled his lips, "The point of rearing them is to eat them!"

Xiao Yan tapped Xiao Budian's head, "Stop spurring nonsense! These people keep the Red-feathered Cranes for them to ride on. Meanwhile, the moment you see anything the first thing you think of is eating."

He shook his head helplessly, "Master knew since the beginning that both of you would do this, so he sent me there to wait on both of you and to bring you back to Xingyun Peak immediately when I see you. After our master bids farewell to the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster, he will take us out of here."

Xiao Budian and Tuntun laughed guiltily and followed Xiao Yan back to Xingyun Peak. There, Lin Feng was conversing with the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster. Beside him stood Jieyu and Yue Hongyan. On the other hand, Purple Cloud Grandmaster and the other Nascent Soul Elders from the Sword of Radiance Sect stood behind the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster.

Lin Feng saw Xiao Budian and Tuntun through the corner of his

eyes. Xiao Budian smiled widely, while Tuntun felt embarrassed. How could he not know that they indeed went after the Sword of Radiance Sect's Red-feathered Cranes?

"The Sword of Radiance Sect just opened their door to thieves this time," Lin Feng felt both unhappy yet amused at the same time. However, he did not show it outwardly and continued to converse with the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster normally.

Following Xiao Budian and Tuntun closely behind was an angry Red Cloud Grandmaster. He stared at Xiao Budian and Tuntun, panting heavily.

In front of her, Xiao Budian and Tuntun seemed to be more at ease. They looked at her with ignorant, child-like eyes. That look was as innocent as it could get.

Red Cloud Grandmaster was irate, but could not do anything. Now she knew that unless she caught them red-handed with evidence, these two mischievous kids would not admit their misdeed.

The Supreme Radiance Swordmaster's expression remained the same. He looked at Lin Feng and said emotionlessly, "A month later, I hope that I can interact with Lord Lin at the entrance of the Ancient Huanghai World."

Lin Feng smiled, "That is indeed my wish too. The leader of the Sword of Radiance Sect, you do not have to send us - I will leave with my disciples. Sorry for the inconvenience all this while. You

are always welcomed to visit me at Mount Yujing anytime. I will await you with open arms."

Jieyu transformed into a black dragon for Lin Feng, Xiao Yan and the rest to mount his back. With a long roar, Jieyu took off and flew to the sky, leaving the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster and company far behind.

After leaving Xingyun Peak, Lin Feng looked at Xiao Budian and Tuntun with an ambivalent expression, saying nothing throughout.

Xiao Budian laughed sheepishly; he poured out more than ten Red-feathered Cranes that he shocked into unconsciousness from his storage bag. He presented them to Lin Feng like he was presenting a treasure, "Master, these cranes are still alive. We can slaughter them anytime and eat them while they are still fresh."

"I also harbor a different intention: these cranes were captured in pairs of males and females. If we can't finish them at once, we can rear them on Mount Yujing and let them procreate. Like that we have an endless supply."

Looking at how unabashedly proud Xiao Budian was of himself, Lin Feng's lips twitched a few times.

Lin Feng conceded that he was one to love delicacies. But he was nowhere as stubborn and devoted as Xiao Budian who was constantly making plans about his next meal. As long as they were non-human living things, anything could be in his recipe.

When it comes to the question of eating, the master and the disciple were definitely not on the same wavelength.

"These Red-feathered Cranes really taste good. Once we have returned to Mount Yujing, we should let the Seniors and other disciples try too!" Xiao Budian said happily.

Lin Feng was torn between frustration and amusement, "Sure, that's nice of you. At least you did not forget to share your things with other people, especially those on the mountain."

Xiao Budian made a face at Xiao Yan, "Big Senior, you had already tried it on Xingyun Peak, so this time I won't leave any for you!"

"Don't worry, no one will fight with you," Xiao Yan scowled, "Look at how greedy you are."

After joking with Xiao Budian, Xiao Yan's smile gradually disappeared from his face. He looked at Lin Feng, suppressing the urge to say something.

Lin Feng smiled, "You want to look for your wife?"

At Wuzhou City, Xiao Yan was extremely disappointed that he did not see Xiao Zhener. Later on, Xiao Laozu passed Xiao Yan a small bag made of cloth and mentioned that Xiao Zhener left it for him.

Even though Lin Feng did not know what was contained in the little bag, he could tell that the situation was not bad from the fact that Xiao Yan was not depressed.

Xiao Yan did not promise only Murong Yanran the meeting after three years. Indeed, he also promised to meet someone else after three years. All these years, she had always been on his mind.

Now that the matter with Murong Yanran was settled and that he had found closure, Xiao Yan naturally started to miss Xiao Zhener.

After hearing what Lin Feng said, Xiao Yan blushed a little, "Master, I really want to look for Zhener," the solemnity of his expression increased as he retrieved a letter from his chest and handed them over to Lin Feng.

Lin Feng did not accept the letter right away. Instead, he gave Xiao Yan a probing look. After all, this was a private letter given to Xiao Yan by Xiao Zhener and it probably contained mushy and intimate words no stranger to young couples. Lin Feng may be nosy parker, but he did not intend to read the letter.

"Master, please read," Xiao Yan said very seriously. He did not show any sense of embarrassment but was very solemn instead.

Lin Feng took over the letter and gave it a cursory look. His curiosity was instantly extinguished. After a short contemplation, he nodded, "If you are insisted on searching for her, I do not object to it. But there are a few things that you must always bear in mind and never be negligent about."

Chapter 257: The Most Pressing Matter

"There are three things that I insist you must take note of," Lin Feng looked at Xiao Yan and impressed upon him, "Firstly, you are still not exactly adept at merging the fires, so you should not use it as you wish. You should know very well that this is still an incomplete technique that you have not mastered completely."

Xiao Yan nodded; he agreed with this judgement: based on his current level of mastery, the risk of merging the fires remained high like walking on a tightrope. If something was amiss, and he failed to merge the fires, he could end up immolating himself.

Merging the two Primordial Flames was his ultimate killer move. Unless absolutely necessary, he would not use it.

Lin Feng put up two fingers, "There are two ways to get around this: the first one is to reduce the strength of the flames after merging. Use two flames – one is the Grand Sun Primordial Flame and the other is the fire formed using your own Mana – and this will increase the stability and safety of the fires. Of course, the impact will drop."

Xiao Yan nodded, "You are right. The Nefarious Spectral Primordial Flame is too savage. On its own, it is still usable. But as soon as it is merged with another fire, there is a multiplied increase in the safety risk."

Lin Feng continued to say, "The second way to get around this is by raising your level of Mastery. I predict that, when you reach the

final level of the Aurous Core Stage, you will have a success rate of more than 70 per cent when merging the two fires."

"One day, you will successfully complete the Soul Formation, and enter the Nascent Soul Stage. When it comes to merging the two fires, it should not be a problem to you at all then."

Xiao Yan replied seriously, "I will put in great effort to practice. Even if I am not at Mount Yujing and Master will not be around to push me, I will not slack off, not even a bit."

"I am glad that you recognize the importance of this too," Lin Feng nodded his head satisfactorily, before continuing, "The second matter that I am going to tell you – you need to be mentally prepared."

"During your journey to search for Zhener this time round, it might not be a smooth one and many unexpected things might happen. If indeed an accident happens, you must bear in mind to never have conflicts with Xiao Zhener's family."

Xiao Yan frowned slightly. Lin Feng took a look at him and said, "Based on the letter Xiao Zhener left for you, her family background is a unique one. A small mistake, and it will be a huge setback for you."

Lin Feng continued slowly, "I am not asking you to suffer in silence and swallow all the insult and humiliation. I just want to remind you to consider each of your action thoroughly and to not behave rashly. You should not let any conflicts escalate. In fact,

you should do your best to not let them happen in the first place."

"If you suffer any indignities or humiliation, always remember that you are my disciple. We, the Celestial Sect of Wonders members, will never let others take advantage of us!"

At this point, Lin Feng raised his hand and did a motion in the air, "And this will be the third matter that I want to tell you."

He used his Mana to produce a talisman mid-air. Once it had taken shape, the talisman fell into Xiao Yan's hand.

"If you find yourself in a very tricky situation, you don't have to suffer alone. Our sect will always be your pillar of support and we will always back you," Lin Feng said with a calm expression, "Carry this talisman at all times with you. If something happens, crush it and I will immediately sense that something is amiss."

"This talisman has the ability to locate you in any space or dimension. It will inform me your exact location. Even if you are not in the Greater World, or if you are trapped in any Middle World or even any void, I can still determine your exact location."

Xiao Yan accepted the talisman solemnly, and said softly, "Master, please rest assured that I will not forget your words."

Lin Feng nodded, and then laughed loudly, "Go, my silly boy. Go and bring home my daughter-in-law. I will be waiting for both of you to pour me some tea when you marry her."

Xiao Yan was a prideful person and laughed after hearing this, "Master, just wait for my good news."

Xiao Budian chuckled beside them, "Big Senior, are you going to bring home a little sister-in-law for me?"

Xiao Yan laughed, "You silly boy, you should not be calling her 'little sister-in-law', she will be your big sister-in-law. She is definitely older than you."

Yue Hongyan also laughed, "Wishing Big Senior the best in bringing home the beauty."

"Thank you, Fourth Junior Sister, for your auspicious remarks," Xiao Yan laughed heartily as a pair of flaming wings extended on his back, taking him on a flight to the sky, "Master, I take my leave now!"

Watching Xiao Yan gradually become a small dot and eventually disappear from the sky, Lin Feng sighed and rubbed his eyebrows.

He thought of the letter Xiao Zhener left for Xiao Yan and smiled bitterly deep down, "I also want my spouses, many of them. I want spouses with lots of nuptial gifts!"

Lin Feng shook his head, and turned to look at Xiao Budian, thinking, "Hmm, it will be quite a while before this little boy can swindle on my behalf to get nuptial gifts?"

Looking at Xiao Budian, Lin Feng thought of Wu Qingrou and Prince Chong Yun, and subsequently of the name that even he had heard of plenty of times.

The Man with Polycoria, Shi Tianyi.

Not only within the Shi family, not only within the Great Qin Empire, the entire Divine Lands, the entire Grand Celestial World, his reputation was known to everyone like thunder piercing the ears.

The Shi family and the Great Qin empire had the Alternate World Time Zone which expedited the passage of time. Accordingly, even if it was based on the Alternate World Time Zone, Shi Tianyi was only fourteen or fifteen years old.

It was notable that this teenager of the age of fourteen or fifteen had long reached the peak of the Aurous Core Stage. Long ago he secluded himself from the outside world again, this time hoping to ascend to the Nascent Soul Stage.

In the course of human history, very few can be compared to him in the speed of cultivation.

As crude as it sounded, even if he were to pass away now, he would still enter the history books as a legendary person.

Lin Feng's Celestial Sect of Wonders disciples were already

reputable for their peculiarity and aberrant abilities. The only ones who could match them, if not eclipse them, would be the Great Void Sect and Shi Tianyi.

And Lin Feng had sufficient reasons to believe that Shi Tianyi's Aurous Core must have its uniqueness.

Shi Tianyi had stolen Xiao Budian's Supreme Spiritual Altar a few years back. That, coupled with his unparalleled and outstanding talent, had ensured his remarkable achievements thus far. Combining these two factors, and given that no accident happened, Lin Feng would wager a bet that he would not only form the Purple Pill but that his Purple Pill would differ from the rest.

With such a strong foundation, coupled with his remarkable talent and the Shi family's dedication in nurturing him, his ability and powers would certainly enable him to challenge cultivators from other realms and stages. In fact, his actual fighting ability far superseded the average Aurous Core Cultivators.

"Xiao Yan's matter has come to an end for now. Even though Zhu Yi will be back to the Great Zhou Empire to take part in the examination soon, he and the Marquis of the Xuanji, Zhu Hongwu, are still in stiff relationship," Lin Feng considered carefully, "The most pressing matter at the moment should be regarding Xiao Budian."

To be fair, Xiao Budian had already cultivated the Aurous Core at a young age of merely eleven. If one must compare, Xiao Budian was arguably more aberrant than Shi Tianyi.

Not long after Xiao Budian's birth, Shi Tianyi and his mum dug up his Supreme Spiritual Altar. That meant that Shi Tianyi had started directly from the middle level of the Foundation Establishment Stage.

And after encountering that disastrous event, Xiao Budian was already almost four years old when he first met Lin Feng. By that time, Shi Tianyi, who was at the Intermediate Foundation Establishment Stage, had already been cultivating diligently for more than three years.

Having already had a starting point ahead of the rest, together with a longer cultivating period, Shi Tianyi's impressive achievement today was not without reason.

On the other hand, despite the huge gap between them, Xiao Budian could catch up with Shi Tianyi so fast. It was indeed a feat that he could catch up with him to where he was today.

Without a doubt, though, if the trajectory of things continued the same way, the gap between them would remain, unless Shi Tianyi's Soul Formation was never successful and he was stuck in the final level of the Aurous Core Stage for a few years.

However, judging from Shi Tianyi's talent and speed of cultivation in the past, it was unrealistic to hope that he would stagnate at the final level of the Aurous Core Stage for Xiao Budian to catch up.

"The little boy has to quicken his pace of learning and increase his powers," Lin Feng thought hard, "But, more haste, less speed. I must be mindful of that. If I am too obsessed with progressing through the stages fast, and his foundation is not good enough as a result, then I would only achieve the opposite effect."

He raised his head to look at the sky and said suddenly, "Jieyu, please stop."

Black Dragon Jieyu followed his command and stopped mid-air. Lin Feng said to his disciples, "You all wait for me here." Then, Lin Feng disappeared from Jieyu's back. He teleported through thousands of miles in altitude, appearing above the clouds. He continued his flight higher into the sky.

Soon, Lin Feng had reached the Heavenly Squall Layer above the Nine Heavens.

Here, the place was covered in the Nine Heavens Formless Squalls that could literally destroy anything.

The squall here was drastically different from the Nine Heavens Formless Squall cultivated through the Aeolus Sect Mantra, with the former clearly overpowering the latter. The Nine Heavens Formless Squall that the Aeolus Sect Cultivators were cultivating was formed by acquiring a small bit of squall using their individual powers and then combining it with their own powers.

But only here in the Heavenly Squall Layer, the Nine Heavens Squall was the authentic and original one. It could tear literally

tear through anything. Even Immortal Soul Cultivators might not survive it once within, much less Nascent Soul Cultivators.

The danger it posed was comparable to the Void Storm in the Void's Turbulent Flow which made all cultivators cower at the sound of it.

Lin Feng arrived at the place and, by forming Celestial Small Worlds with the Heaven-revolving Purple Clouds, attempted to take away a small part of the Nine Heaven Formless Squall. However, his Celestial Small Worlds were instantly destroyed completely by the Nine Heavens Formless Squall.

"Incredible indeed," Lin Feng raised his eyebrow, extended both of his hands and opened up his arms.

On his left, he wielded the Fences of the Heaven; on his right, he wielded the Dual Dimension Vacuum Charm.

First, he used the Fences of the Heaven to insulate a space. The violent squall was momentarily cut off. Then, he used the Dual Dimension Vacuum Charm to immediately substitute the space at which a small part of the Nine Heavens Formless Squall was. This had the effect of removing the small part of squall from the Heavenly Squall Layer.

All of these were completed almost all at once in an instance. Right after that, the violent squall managed to break through the barrier formed by the Fences of the Heaven, resuming its normal flow.

And at this point, Lin Feng performed a different charm with his hands and formed the Celestial Small Worlds again. He used the Celestial Small Worlds to trap the part of the Nine Heavens Formless Squall that he managed to separate.

The most primitive, but also the most powerful Nine Heavens Formless Squall did not cease its turbulent flow even though it was now trapped within the Celestial Small Worlds. It churned non-stop like an unbridled wild horse, trying to break through the Celestial Small World and escape from it.

But Lin Feng decisively strengthened the Celestial Small Worlds, thus effectively trapping the squall within.

"Having the squall alone is not enough," Lin Feng mumbled to himself. With a long wail, the bright light above his head opened up as a small child rose up slowly. His look resembled that of Lin Feng closely – clearly, he was Lin Feng's Nascent Soul!

The Nascent Soul came out of Lin Feng's body and pointed his short and fat arm at the sky. Thunder started to rumble in the Nine Heavens.

The next moment, a merciless flash of lightning passed through space, directly striking Lin Feng.

Lin Feng felt confident and was not nervous at all. He dealt with the Lightning Tribulations the same way he dealt with the Nine Heavens Formless Squall.

First, he used the Fences of the Heaven as a barrier, then he used the Dual Dimension Vacuum Charm to detach a part of the lightning, before finally trapping it with the Celestial Small Worlds.

Once he had collected enough Squall and Lightning, his Nascent Soul returned to his body. Despite being immensely powerful himself, his face started to show some exhaustion.

What he had been through today was almost tantamount to braving through the Lightning Tribulations multiple times.

"Nonetheless, it was all worth it," a smile appeared on Lin Feng's face. He passed through space before returning to Jieyu's back. He looked at a confused Xiao Budian with a wide grin, thinking, "Little boy, be prepared to face my specially designated torturous training regime."

Xiao Budian was not sure what was exactly happening, but when he saw the grin on Lin Feng's face, he could feel a chill run down his spine and trembled uncontrollably.

Chapter 258: Your Master Looked Favorably Upon You

Lin Feng stood on Jieyu's back, looking indescribably charming and at ease as the wind blew against him.

However, Tuntun and Yue Hongyan, who were standing behind him, looked at him with fear in their eyes.

Lin Feng placed his left hand behind him; his right hand was supporting a purple ball of roughly one foot in diameter. The purple ball hovered above his right palm in mid-air and bobbed up and down to the changes in the air current.

That was the Celestial Small World created by Lin Feng's magic powers. In that independent world, violent squall and lightning were constantly wreaking havoc and destruction as though it were doomsday.

Suddenly, something seemed to want to break out of the Celestial Small Worlds. A powerful force was striking the inner surface of the purple ball.

Lin Feng laughed, "You silly little child, that Void Lightning Tribulations possessed the ability to break through different spaces and dimensions. In order to not let the lightning escape, I have added some special changes to the Celestial Small Worlds."

"The lightning could not transcend space and dimension to leave

the bubble, naturally you can't use Green Bronze Ding (Crucible) of Emptiness to escape."

From within the Celestial Small Worlds, Xiao Budian's panicked voice could be heard, "Master, please let me out of this!"

Lin Feng replied in a slow, relaxed manner, "When you are left with your last breath, I will naturally release you. But you need not worry, with the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness, you won't die."

"However, I fervently hope that you can use your own powers to fend off the attacks by the squall and lightning. This will be very beneficial to the enhancement of your powers, and especially good for improving the strength of your muscles and the sturdiness of your physique. After braving through nine days of Nine Heavens Formless Squall and the Void Lightning Tribulations, your physical strength will be much stronger than before."

Lin Feng laughed again, "Silly little boy, please work hard. I look favorably upon you and I have high hopes for you."

"Master, do you really intend to toy with me until I die?" Xiao Budian, who was trapped within the Celestial Small Worlds, was wailing dolorously. However, shortly after, his voice was drowned by the howling noise of the squall and lightning.

Tuntun, who was sitting aside, could not help but swallow fearfully. She sat obediently on Jieyu's back, afraid of acting rashly.

Yue Hongyan had always thought that her cultivation was already very arduous and demanding, and that she was very dedicated to her learning. However, now that she saw what Xiao Budian was going through, she thought otherwise.

Lin Feng completely ignored Xiao Budian's cries of protest. He thought to him rather heartlessly, "To succeed you must persevere through sufferings and work hard for an extended period of time. My good disciple, I hope you will be enlightened."

While controlling his powers to ensure the stability of the Celestial Small Worlds, Lin Feng entered the System.

Checking his Reputation Ratings, Lin Feng was deeply satisfied. This trip to Xingyun Peak was very worthwhile.

In the southeast region of the Great Qin Empire where Xingyun Peak was located, Lin Feng's personal Reputation Ratings soared directly to 80. And this was in spite of the region being the Sword of Radiance Sect's home ground where it had great influence over. Otherwise, Lin Feng's personal Reputation Ratings would be even higher and comparable to that in his hometown, the northern Mount Kunlun region.

However, on the other hand, it could also be said that Lin Feng benefited from the Sword of Radiance Sect's status. If it was not for the fact that the Sword of Radiance Sect was so influential, Lin Feng's Reputation Ratings might not have risen so much.

What surprised Lin Feng even more was that the Celestial Sect of Wonders' over Reputation Ratings also rose to 70 in the southern region of the Great Qin Empire. The rapid and stark rise of in the sect's Reputation Ratings was surprising for the Celestial Sect of Wonders.

Xiao Yan's getting rid of Murong Yanran in an effortless manner was one of them; Xiao Budian's convincing defeat of the Sword of Radiance Sect's Biggest Disciple, Zhao Yan, was another; Xiao Yan's earth-shattering strike after successfully merging two Primordial Flames, and thus embarrassing Prince Chong Yun, certainly also contributed to it.

With the combined impact of all three battles, it was no wonder the Reputation Ratings soared.

"It seems that, if I want to raise the overall Reputation Ratings of the sect, the impact on the Reputation Ratings would be greater if my disciples' performance was impressive," Lin Feng was hit by realization, "If I get the limelight, it will primarily raise my personal Reputation Ratings. And while the sect's overall Reputation Ratings will increase, the increase will be less than the increase in his personal Reputation Ratings."

Lin Feng checked the other regions and discovered that his personal Reputation Ratings, as well as the sect's overall Reputation Ratings, registered growth at different magnitudes. Even at his hometown, the northern Mount Kunlun region, the sect's overall Reputation Ratings increased from the initial 75 to 80.

This had to be attributed to Lin Feng's high profile travelling and appearance with a dragon, which certainly created a hullabaloo to make everyone aware of it.

"It's just that if I want to achieve a Reputation Ratings of greater than 80 worldwide for the sect, it's still a long way to go," Lin Feng contemplated while checking the Reputation Ratings System, "This time, the Arena Contest before the opening of the Ancient Huanghai World will be a good opportunity to boost our reputation and popularity."

To Lin Feng, the value of the Arena Contest was much greater than that of entering the Ancient Huanghai World.

"With the good fortune that my disciples have, as soon as they enter the Ancient Huanghai World, they are definitely going to snatch everything, devour everything and take everything," Lin Feng was not at all worried that his disciples would leave empty-handed after entering the Ancient Huanghai World.

It would be a joke if a bunch of talented individuals like themselves sought treasure at that place but returned home without anything.

Let us not mention that they would finish all the meat without leaving any bones behind. If they were willing to leave some soup for the rest, it would have been generous of them.

In fact, Lin Feng thought to himself, if these kids merely ate, snatched and took everything, and did not start a killing spree, Lin

Feng would have been pleased.

"In the beginning stage of the accumulation of wealth, a little bit of killing would have been necessary," Lin Feng continued thinking, "But now I want to shake off my past and move towards more legitimate dealings. For the sect to develop and prosper, we can't afford to make enemies everywhere."

Having the Mount Yujing's natural advantage, Lin Feng was not afraid at all, not even if the entire world were his enemies. However, that would be too tiring, and his life would lack quality, and it would make it difficult for him to complete the System's Quest.

Therefore, instead of thinking about entering the Ancient Huanghai world, Lin Feng was more preoccupied with how he could make his disciples trump with glory in the competitive Arena Contest. He wanted to boost his and his sect's name and to prove those who did not look favorably upon them wrong, eventually raising the reputation of the Celestial Sect of Wonders.

Lin Feng kept travelling in the northwest direction, soon he would be returning to the Kunlun Mountains. He was not in a rush back – when it was time to train, he would train; when it was time to enjoy the scenery, he would enjoy the scenery. Anyway, simultaneously, he could train Xiao Budian.

"All hosts get a chance at the lottery each month. The lottery of the sixth month is now open, would you like to take part immediately?"

Life had been slow and relaxing. When the System's Voice spoke into his ears, Lin Feng only realized then that it was already the sixth month.

Since the last System promotion, Lin Feng was now given a chance at the lottery every month. He was very pleased about it.

"Of course I would like to take part now," Lin Feng entered the Lottery System without hesitation.

He first entered the Spin-A-Wheel page where he scanned the items available during this round of lottery. His sight fell on a magic sword.

Pure Yang Sword, an Aurous Core Magic Weapon.

Though, to be honest, at his current level of Cultivation, Lin Feng was no longer attracted to Aurous Core Magic Weapons anymore. He merely wanted it so that he could give it to his disciple.

However, this magic sword mattered more to Lin Feng, for the sole reason that this Pure Yang Sword was made with the Pure Yang Primordial Fire.

With the Pure Yang Sword in his possession, Lin Feng would then stand a chance of uncovering the mysteries of the Pure Yang Primordial Fire.

The Pure Yang Primordial Fire was one of the Seven Legendary Primordial Fires in the Heaven and Earth. It was known for being the ancestor of all fires, the origins, the earliest ancestor of the flames in the entire Grand Celestial World. It was considered the purest of all forms of flames and could merge with many other flames to subdue anything Ying or evil.

Lin Feng took a look at the number the Pure Yang Sword was labeled. He made some calculations in his heart and then started to spin the Wheel.

The Wheel spun at a great speed. Soon it had made three and a half turns and was starting to slow down. Lin Feng was feeling anxious because he was worried that, with only a 25 percent chance of getting the sword, he might just end up missing the item he wanted again.

The Wheel exceeded by an additional box. It finally ended at the box after the Pure Yang Sword.

Lin Feng's eyes flashed. He roughly knew all of the items available on the Lottery System. He was also fairly interested in the item in the box after the Pure Yang Sword.

"I can't explain it but I just feel cheated," Lin Feng frowned slightly. His consciousness exited the Lottery System. He stared at the object in his hand, deep in thought.

It was a small bell hammer with a light golden lustre. There were

carvings of mysterious patterns on its surface; from within it, one could feel an extraordinary energy passing through it. Clearly, it was a valuable object.

However, Lin Feng just could not be cheered up because, according to the explanation given by the system, he found out that the extraordinary part of little bell hammer lay not with itself.

This clock striker was actually an accessory of an Immortal Soul Magic Treasure called the Yellow Heaven Bell. Even though on its own it possessed extraordinary magical powers, it was after all not the Yellow Heaven Bell itself.

Lin Feng was thinking, "I will keep it first. Maybe I can find the Yellow Heaven Bell through this little object?"

While thinking, his heart skipped a beat. He looked down at the Celestial Small Worlds in his hand – within the purple gaseous world, the squall and lightning were gradually abating.

They not only had to try to break through Lin Feng's Celestial Small Worlds, they also had to attack Xiao Budian who was trapped inside with them. After being worn out for a few days, the wind and the lightning were getting weaker.

Or perhaps it would be more appropriate to say that, a considerable amount of spiritual energy belonging to the squall and the lightning was absorbed by Xiao Budian.

"This way of cultivating is undoubtedly good, but it is too troublesome. The squall and lightning will run out easily and need to be constantly replenished," Lin Feng swung his arm and the Celestial Small Worlds transformed into a group of purple gas before dispersing. Xiao Budian emerged from within.

The little boy transformed once again into his Thunderstorm Avatar. His entire body was surrounded by wind and lightning, resembling that of a God or a Devil.

Compared to back at Xingyun Peak, Xiao Budian's current Thunderstorm Avatar had shrunk a lot in size. From the previous three meters, he was now only slightly more than two meters in height.

But the powers contained in him were now even more refined, even more intimidating.

Lin Feng saw him and laughed satisfactorily, "Good, my effort was worthwhile. The moment you manage to shrink your Thunderstorm Avatar to the same size as your original body, that's when you have successfully mastered it."

Xiao Budian extinguished the Wind and Lightning, and sat cross-legged on Jieyu's back, looking flustered. He looked at Lin Feng obliquely with a pair of large eyes that were on the verge of tearing up – he felt indignant and upset.

An amused Lin Feng tapped Xiao Budian's head and said, "Stop pretending. I have something for you, do you want it or not?"

Xiao Budian's face lit up with happiness immediately when he heard this. Grinning broadly, he stood up and threw himself at Lin Feng, "I always knew that Master is the nicest to me!"

"You are just waiting for your Master to say this, right?" Lin Feng gave a faint smile while looking at him. Xiao Budian scratched the back of his head, clearly very delighted.

Of course he knew that Lin Feng's special training before this was for his own good. He was merely feigning pity just now.

Xiao Budian said, "All of Master's Magic Treasures were all given to Big Senior. If I don't seize the opportunity, I would be left with nothing at all."

Lin Feng pretended to scold him, "I am not as poor as you just made me out to be. As long as you train well, you will also have your share of treasures. All of you disciples will receive something from me."

"The old rule applies: Among the few of you, whoever is the first to form the Nascent Soul will receive a Magic Treasure from me. The ones later will receive something too, but first come, first served. If you haven't reached the Nascent Soul Stage, even if I give you the Magic Treasure, you will not be able to use it well anyway."

Lin Feng shot a glance at Xiao Budian, "You think that your Big Senior is as greedy as you?" As he said this, he flicked his finger. A

flash of firelight flew out and stopped mid-air – it was the Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor.

Xiao Budian looked at the Flaming Dragon Celestial Armor. After a long moment, he sighed and said something that left Lin Feng torn between tearing up and laughing. "Big senior is such a fool. If it were me, I would not have returned the armor."

Chapter 259: A Familiar Stranger

Lin Feng extended both his hands as he pinched Xiao Budian's fair cheeks. "If there were a competition for being shameless, you would definitely win it."

Xiao Budian hurriedly caressed his poor face and exclaimed, "Come on Master, you must stop doing that. The old people back in my village used to say that pinching the cheeks of young children would explode the bag of saliva in the cheeks. Next time when I grow up, I will still not be able to stop dripping saliva."

"Who do you think you are kidding? You are already not a young child anyways." Lin Feng was unfazed. "You are already eleven years old. No matter how hard I pinch, nothing will happen."

Following whic, Lin Feng continued to nod his head, "And the touch of your cheeks is really not bad."

Xiao Budian's face gave away a look of helpless as he stared at the grinning Lin Feng.

Yue Hongyan looked at the master and disciple who were having fun and immediately her angry red brows softened.

Tun Tun and Jieyu were both surprised to see that the extremely powerful Lin Feng and Xiao Budian actually had this side.

"But, I guess it would only be shown during the interaction

between master and disciples as well as between the seniors and juniors..." Jieyu thought.

After messing around with Xiao Budian, Lin Feng recovered his Flame Dragon Celestial Armor and retrieved the Hammer of the Yellow Heaven Bell. He handed the hammer to Xiao Budian and spoke, "Retrieve the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness."

Xiao Budian obediently followed Lin Feng's instructions as his body began to emit a green glow before a crucible split away from his body and landed in front of Lin Feng.

Lin Feng took over the hammer and gave the crucible a light knock.

Immediately, an unbelievable loud sound exploded into the air as Xiao Budian, Yue Hongyan and Tun Tun's eyes widened.

They could literally see solid sonic waves rippling away from the crucible in a continuous manner.

Wherever the sound waves had travelled, all that was left behind was nothing but destroyed space and void.

Xiao Budian's eyes glowed with interest, "Such power! The Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness might have been cultivated with much of the rules of space and void but it would never have been able to pull this off by itself.

Lin Feng smiled, "This hammer was originally the hammer for the magic treasure Yellow Heaven Bell. Because of its activation of the crucible's potential, the crucible was able to produce such a powerful sonic wave."

"I shall now hand this hammer over to you. You can think of it as a chance or fate given to you. It would now depend on your fortune to see if you can locate the Yellow Heaven Bell."

"Thank you Master!" Xiao Budian was initially elated but then an idea struck him. "Master, so what happens if I have attained the Nascent Soul stage..."

Lin Feng scolded him heartily, "You are really good at this... Don't worry. The Yellow Heaven Bell is a bonus issue. Once you attain the Nascent Soul stage, I will make sure you get a separate magic treasure."

Xiao Budian was instantly overjoyed, "Thank you Master!"

Lin Feng saw how Xiao Budian could not bear to put the hammer down and thought to himself, "So many disciples... And all of them want good stuff only... It seems that I might need to transform into Santa Claus soon..."

"Now that I have made all these promises, I can only take the pressure as a form of motivation..." Lin Feng thought, "I must also train harder and attain the Immortal Soul stage as soon as possible."

Riding on Jieyu, Lin Feng gazed at his surroundings while flying and something caught his eye.

He could see that in the middle of the Kunlun Mountains, there was a huge patch of barren ground. The land was not only free from all plants and lives but even the rocks and the mountains were all destroyed.

The stones and rocks were all white in color and powdery, a result of burning at an impossibly high temperature.

Lin Feng roughly gauged the distance and commented, "That place should be the position of Yang Qing's old sect, the Cloud Water Cave."

Despite not actually having been there, Lin Feng had heard the rough descriptions of the location of where the Cloud Water Cave was from both Miao Shihao and Yang Qing. By comparing the descriptions of the surroundings, Lin Feng could accurately locate its position.

After signalling Jieyu to land in the middle of the mountains, Lin Feng arrived at the burnt-down Cloud Water Cave and saw a land of tombstones.

Lin Feng did not recognize any of the names engraved onto the tombstones. But the person who had erected all the tombstones did leave his name and he was none other than Yang Qing.

Seeing Yang Qing's name, Xiao Budian and Yue Hongyan could not help but adopt a solemn disposition as they all knew that this was Yang Qing's most painful memory.

The most pathetic part was the fact that Yang Qing did not know even know who to look for to seek for revenge.

Xiao Budian was still not really that affected by the sight but Yue Hongyan could not help but reveal an expression of shock as her face darkened when she examined the remaining corpses of within the Cloud Water Cave. She lowered herself as she grabbed onto some of the white rock. Before she could react to it, the white rocks disintegrated into ash in her hands.

It was not because she was using a lot of strength but rather after the intense burning, the rocks were already weaker than either mud or soil.

Yue Hongyan could not help but stare at the ash in her hand as she kept silent.

Lin Feng studied the surroundings as saw that the entire area of a ten-mile radius was all covered in white. He did not turn his head to look at Yue Hongyan but used his mana to communicate with her. He spoke softly, "These were a result of the Kshitigarbha Primordial Fire."

The Kshitigarbha Primordial Fire was one of the Seven Legendary Primordial Fires. It contained the essence of the Earthly Fire and its flame is green in color. The power of its fire is

boundless just like the Earth nature.

Before becoming Lin Feng's disciple, Yue Hongyan was cultivating in the way of the Apocalyptic True Flame, which was a mutated subset of the Kshitigarbha Primordial Fire. It was not as strong as the primordial fire but it was much easier to cultivate and control.

"Since the last time I met him, Zhang Lie had already cultivated the pure Kshitigarbha Primordial Fire ." Yue Hongyan took in a deep breath and composed herself but her little clenched fist was still trembling with unease.

Lin Feng spoke in a reassuring voice, "There might not only be one person in the world which can manipulate the Kshitigarbha Primordial Fire. Calm yourself down."

Yue Hongyan looked down and replied, "Yes Master."

He might have said that but Lin Feng knew himself that the unfortunate destiny that Yue Hongyan and Zhang Lie shared had a good chance of extending to this incident.

When it came to Zhang Lie, unless he had attained the Immortal Soul stage, Lin Feng would not even deem him as someone worth taking note of. Because with his current power, he was pretty much unparalleled at the Nascent Soul stage.

It was one year ago when Yue Hongyan and Kang Nanhua had

last seen Zhang Lie. At that point of time, Zhang Lie was at the middle level of the Nascent Soul stage. The chances of attaining the Immortal Soul stage in such a short period of time was essentially zero, even with the help of many fortuitous encounters and the power of the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World.

After all, there was a limit to everything.

But Lin Feng's nonchalance did not mean that his disciples were carefree about it. Holding onto the powers of the Kshitigarbha Primordial Fire and the mana of the middle level of the Nascent Soul stage, Zhang Lie was a very real threat to Lin Feng's disciples.

This was especially true for both Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing who were not only easy targets for Zhang Lie but also people who had offended him.

"Regardless of whether it was Zhang Lie or not, what would be the intent of destroying the Cloud Water Cave?" Lin Feng furrowed his brows. "If there were no grievances or vengeance involved, then there must be some form of motivation by some interests."

Thinking about this, Lin Feng's face darkened, "A small sect like the Cloud Water Cave will not be in possession of anything that a middle level Nascent Soul stage cultivator will need. Other than Yang Qing's Grand Moon Primordial Water, I really can't think of anything else..."

If it was really for the Grand Moon Primordial Water, his objective would not have been met.

Lin Feng smiled to himself, "Regardless of who you are, you

better not mess with me."

Leaving Xiao Budian and the rest at where they were, Lin Feng took a stroll among the mountains as he pondered on this matter.

As he strolled on, he suddenly stopped his footsteps.

Lin Feng's awareness and sensitivity of his surroundings were now largely improved as he could sense movement and circulation of mana of a rather large area. In fact, he was already aware of the presence of a few cultivators in the vicinity of the burnt-down Cloud Water Cave. But because they did not possess any abilities which were worth noting, he could not be bothered with them.

But now that he knew that there was someone spying on him, Lin Feng began to take interest in that.

On the peak of a neighbouring mountain, a young girl dressed in green stuck her head out from the outgrowth carefully as she monitored Lin Feng's movement.

She had a gold-digging mouse which was about palm-size big on her shoulder. It whispered next to her ear, "Feng Ling, that guy has a familiar aura."

"Oh?" The young girl exclaimed, "How can it be familiar? I can't even sense any rippling of mana from him."

The gold-digging mouse's whiskers twitched, "I can't be sure but

it just feels familiar. I also can't sense his mana but I just feel that his scent is familiar."

"Oh, got it!" The little mouse's ear shot up, "About a year ago, it was also in Mount Kunlun, the Avīci Infernal Gale!"

Hearing what it just said, the girl seemed to have recalled as well, "Oh it's that guy!"

Despite being quite a distance away, the entire conversation was audible to Lin Feng. It was a good moment spent rummaging through his memory before he finally burst out into laughter after recalling who the person was.

There was a time not too long ago when Lin Feng first came into the Kunlun Mountains. He was looking for Mount Yujing but was denied by the Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds. Hence, Lin Feng had set off to look for the Gaia Jade to allow the then incomplete Heaven and Earth Mirror to produce sufficient Central Wutu Divine Light.

During his search for the Gaia Jade, Lin Feng could vaguely sense that someone was tailing him. And that someone had already attracted the troublesome disciples of the Aeolus Sect. But after retrieving the Gaia Jade, the Avīci Infernal Gale happened and Lin Feng quickly left. And very soon, he had forgotten everything.

Never in his wildest dreams did he expect himself to meet the person tailing him again. "So it is this little brat... How lucky of her to be able to escape the Avīci Infernal Gale with her Foundation

Establishment stage powers..."

Both of them were aware of each other's existence back then but strangely, they had never really met one another.

Lin Feng shook his head and laughed as he made a mental note that it had already been ten years since the incident (because of the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World), and hence, could not even be bothered with it. Now with the huge disparity in their abilities, he was even more disinterested in settling any of these old feuds.

However, the girl dressed in green, Zhuge Fengling obviously thought otherwise. She grinded her teeth as she stared at Lin Feng with much hatred, "Haha! Now that we meet again! Let's settle both the new and old scores!"

The gold-digging mouse on her shoulders shrieked, "Fengling, don't tell me you are thinking of..."

Zhuge Fengling grinned slyly, "Yup, that's totally what I am thinking of doing."

Chapter 260: Trying An Old Trick

Zhuge Fengling stared at Lin Feng and grinned slyly, "I may not know how strong this person is but judging from the fact that we cannot peer him through, he must be something. At least not someone that we can handle ourselves.

"But this doesn't mean the others can't. Even if the others can't, it also won't matter because once the big cows are dead, I'll be able to swoop in and get the treasures."

The girl dressed in green was smiling like a fox as she continued, "And, I don't really think that this guy would be able to defeat the big and stupid cows. Since there's an actual Demon Lord amongst them."

The relented gold-digging mouse spoke, "Fengling, I really think that it's a bad idea to meddle with this guy. I don't get a good feeling from him."

"Serious?" Zhuge Fengling was obviously affected by its words as the gold-digging mouse was her spiritual pet and also her companion. It had a gift of sniffing out danger, which was innate adaptation of the gold-digging mouse.

The gold-digging mouse lifted its paw and scratched its little head and continued, "I can't put my finger on it either but that feeling comes and goes. But it's weak for sure. But it's because of this, I fear for the worst. How can the usually reliable gift of mine suddenly become so weak..."

"The more strange it is, the more I worry about the person. He can even cheat my ability to sense danger."

The expression on Zhuge Fengling's face kept changing but it settled on a determined look. "Regardless of what, even if the person is a harbinger of danger, I don't think that the danger will be very significant."

"No matter what, I have decided to act on my revenge now." Zhuge Fengling spoke with much gusto, "I'll place my bet on this gamble!"

As the girl and her pet disappeared into the woods, Lin Feng smiled, "It seems like the little girl has decided to try to pull an old trick again."

He stroked his chin and thought, "Trying to swoop in to steal a treasure? Hmm... I wonder what the treasure is though..."

When it came to what plans that Zhuge Fengling had, Lin Feng could not give a damn about it. Because for him, whatever that came his way, he would simply take it head-on.

"You want to take advantage of me? You must be delusional..." Lin Feng shook his head and laughed. "You've no idea who is in control of who right here."

Lin Feng released his spiritual awareness and it increasingly

covered more area. Before long, a huge group of demons and creatures came into his spiritual vision.

Amongst these demons and creatures, many of them had already attained the Demonic Commander stage. From the look of things, it was probably a complete demonic clan.

What surprised Lin Feng was the ability of the huge demonic clan to mask the demonic energy. Lin Feng was only able to locate them after some intense examination on his surroundings.

If not for Zhuge Fengling's reminder which had motivated him to closely examine his surroundings, he would not have been aware of their presence.

Upon closer examination, Lin Feng realized that it was not the demons which were good in masking their presence, but rather the existence of a faint spiritual energy which balanced the demonic aura in the air, which had caused him to miss out on their presence.

"This spiritual energy is very dense by itself but just as how it had balanced out the demonic energy, it has become very faint and inconspicuous." Lin Feng immediately understood as he thought, "I see... It is an intended act from the demons as they had used their sheer numbers to mask the trace of the spiritual energy to prevent others from discovering it."

Lin Feng was just about to peer deeper into the matter before sensing a powerful and boundless demonic aura from the demonic

clan, which triggered his acute sense of danger.

"That must be the Demonic Lord that the brat was mentioning..." Lin Feng thought.

It seemed that the Demonic Lord's power was really quite impressive as his inquisitiveness was detected by the Demonic Lord the moment he had tried to peer deeper into the activities.

Lin Feng decided against peering deeper and immediately, the other party was no longer able to sense his presence. The demonic energy radiated by the Demonic Lord demonstrated its confused emotion as it pondered over whether it was just an illusory mistake.

Lin Feng thought, "Hmm... How can the Demonic Lord be so sensitive to my presence? Unless it is because of that unknown treasure? Things are getting interesting..."

After a short moment, Lin Feng could start to sense some restlessness and movement amongst the demons. A cluster of demons had detached themselves from the group and were heading in the direction towards Lin Feng. And fast.

Lin Feng smiled and was nonchalant about the changes as he continued to take his stroll.

Very soon, a huge amount of demonic energy surged in the air as they neared Lin Feng. Lin Feng could sense the suppressed violent

nature within the demonic energy, just like a sky of dark clouds which refused to rain.

"Dong! Dong! Dong!"

The thunderous sound of the heavy footsteps of the demons echoed from afar and like the hundreds and thousands of war drums in a battle field, they were like a chained thunderstorm.

Interested, Lin Feng stopped his movement and patiently waited for their arrival.

In a short moment, a humongous dust cloud could be seen from the mountains in afar. In fact, some of the smaller knolls were knocked down directly by their heavy movement.

The once clear weather started to be enshrouded by dark clouds as a thunderstorm seemed to be imminent.

After seeing the appearance of the demons, Lin Feng was mildly shocked and rather confused.

There were about ten humongous demons that looked like grey cows. However they had no horns and had only a single leg. Their bodies were glittering, just like the sunlight and moonlight. Their roars were like an explosive thunder.

Lin Feng stared at the beasts with much curiosity, "If I'm not wrong, aren't these the Kui Cows? Legend has it that these

creatures reside on the spiritual mountains near the East Coast... How come they are over here in the Western part of the land in the Kunlun Mountains?"

It was not that they could not survive out of water but rather why would they leave their comfort zone?

"Unless it is because of the treasure?" Now Lin Feng was increasingly interested in the treasure. But it seemed that the Demonic Commanders in front of him were not too willing to welcome him.

The strongest Demonic Commander among the Kui Cows was a good two meters tall as it peered down at Lin Feng before speaking in human tongue, "So you are the one backing the girl?"

Even though it was speaking the human tongue, its voice was still like a rumbling thunder.

Lin Feng frowned and replied, "I have no relationship with that girl you are speaking about."

He paused before looking at the Kui Cows in front of him and continued, "However, call it coincidence, but it happens that we do share a common objective."

"What is the treasure that you all are trying to mask with your demonic energy?"

Hearing Lin Feng's question, the Demonic Commander exploded into a rage, "So you are the same type!"

Its rage resulted in the emergence of many rumbling thunder clouds on its body, which merged and fused with the sun and moon light, resulting in a bright spark which went straight for Lin Feng.

Just before it came into contact with Lin Feng, a cheerful voice could be heard shouting, "Oooh! A Kui cow!"

An adorable and fair little girl appeared in front of Lin Feng and stared at the Kui cow, emitting a green light from both of her eyes. As she opened her little mouth, a powerful suction force engulfed the demonic spark which the Demonic Commander had released, and the spark went straight into her mouth.

The Kui Cow Demonic Commander trembled as it exclaimed, "A pure-blood Taotie?"

Yes, it was none other than the little Taotie, Tun Tun. She giggled, "What are you waiting for? This creature is very precious and delicious."

The Kui Cow Demonic Commander's hair stood up as a strong sense of danger struck it. Just before it could react to anything, a young male voice could be heard, "I'm surprised at how a single leg can support such a humongous body. And quite sturdy as well."

Xiao Budian patted on the single leg of the Demonic Commander

while Tun Tun laughed, "The taste of the meat on this leg is the best!"

"How dare you!" The Demonic Commander screamed in anger as the demonic spark on its body began to glitter again. For some strange reason, it resonated with the thunderstorm in the sky and a scary amount of energy began to build up.

The Kui cows behind it also began to let out a loud roar, as they initiated the demonic energy within themselves and began to communicate with the thunderstorm in the sky.

Countless flash of lightnings could be seen within the thunderstorm as their original disjointed form began to synchronize with one another. Before long, they became one and it lit up the entire dark sky till it was as bright as the day.

Xiao Budian looked up at the sky and giggled, "Surrender yourself and be my food. Any form of resistance will be futile."

He waved his hands and the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness, as well as the Hammer of the Yellow Heaven Bell appeared in his hands. With his left hand on the crucible and his right hand holding the hammer, Xiao Budian gave the crucible a light hammer.

Immediately, an unbelievable loud sound was produced and instantly, the thunder in the sky was overwhelmed by it.

Solid waves of golden ripples could be seen expanding to the horizon and all thunderflashes which were in the sky were

instantly disintegrated. Even the oppressive dark thunder clouds were also destroyed by the sound waves.

The sky soon regained its original azure color as though it had just been washed clean of all dirt.

And this group of Kui cows were knocked aback by the golden sound waves as color was drained from their faces. Immediately, they knew that they would not be able to fight against Xiao Budian and quickly turned towards their back, ready to flee.

But how was it possible that Xiao Budian and Tun Tun would let their food run away?

With a combined effort, both of them subdued all the Kui cows and any form of resistance was dealt with swiftly and decisively.

In the distant forest, Zhuge Fengling and the gold-digging mouse both had their jaws dropped at the sight of this. Zhuge Fengling stammered and said, "That...that was a good ten Demonic Commander level Kui cows right? How could they be captured with such ease?"

The gold-digging mouse nodded its head fervently, "That's right. It's totally insane. Fengling, I think it's better if we leave."

Zhuge Fengling continued to look at Lin Feng, unresigned as she spoke, "How could his luck be so good? The cows were just about to trample him to his death then two little brats had to come in to

save him."

Lin Feng went to the Kui Cow Demonic Commander and grinned, "Are you willing to answer my question now?"

The Demonic Commander grunted in displeasure, "If not for the sudden appearance of these two little brats, I would have trampled you flat!"

"Oh really?" Lin Feng grinned and looked at Xiao Budian, "So if you hadn't come, I would have been trampled by him?"

Xiao Budian laughed playfully before jumping onto the head of the Kui Cow Demonic Commander, with the tip of its feet jutting at its skull. "Open you big cow eyes and look carefully. He is my master. Who are you trying to trample?"

"Let me ask you one last time. Who are you trying to trample?"

Chapter 261: Lone Survivor

Staring at Xiao Budian and then Lin Feng, an instant later, every single one of the Kui Cow's eyes widened and let out a concerted howl.

Up on the mountain, Zhuge Fengling's eyes widened further, speechless. On her shoulder, the Gold-Digging Mouse shrieked. "The disciple is already so savage...the master? Fengling, run, run! This man...a hundred, no, a thousand of you can only cower in front of him!"

Coming to her senses, Zhuge Fengling nodded fervently and turned, ready to bolt.

At this moment, a voice suddenly sounded out beside their ears. "Leaving so soon?"

Purple gas surrounded Zhuge Fengling and the Gold-Digging Mouse. Both instantly felt the world spin before their eyes; when their vision returned to normal, Lin Feng's cryptic face appeared before them.

Zhuge Fengling forced a smile. "This...uh, this master, what can I do for you?"

Lin Feng surveyed her briefly, his gaze settling on the Gold-Digging Mouse on her shoulder.

The Gold-Digging Mouse trembled, speaking in human tongue. "Yes...yes, master, wh-whatever lowly me can do for you, please feel free!"

"Don't you guys want me to do your bidding?" Lin Feng asked emotionlessly. "That those Kui Cows are guarding. What treasure is it?"

Zhuge Fengling felt as feeble as a strand of wet noodle from head to toe, barely able to stand at all. It was then that she realized that her conversations with the Gold-Digging Mouse have all fallen on Lin Feng's ears.

This discovery removed any remaining notion of resistance.

"It's over, it's all over." Zhuge Fengling, despondent, confessed, "All I know is that it seems to be a spiritual flower or herb, basically a type of plant extremely rich in spiritual energy, I don't know about the rest."

The Gold-Digging Mouse hurriedly nodded in agreement. "We didn't dare to go closer. That Kui Cow King's senses are extremely sensitive, it would notice even the movement of a single blade of grass."

The vast gap in abilities between the two allowed Lin Feng's Awareness to easily capture all of Zhuge Fengling's emotional changes and psychological fluctuations; even without probing directly into her soul, he can infer if there has been deceit or deception.

Seeing that Zhuge Fengling and the Gold-Digging Mouse were indeed oblivious, Lin Feng set them aside and turned to see those Kui Cows subdued by Xiao Budian and Tuntun.

The herd of Kui Cows all lowered their heads, though not in submission, but rather silent defiance and wordless stubbornness.

"Stubborn as a bull". The Bull, obstinate by nature; Kui Cows, especially, exemplified this trait.

Even if their lives were in the hands of others, they still refuse to yield.

Lin Feng surveyed them emotionlessly, and nodded to Xiao Budian. "Boiled or braised? Your choice."

"I like boiled." Xiao Budian sniggered, staring at the Kui Cows, his eyes gleaming like a wolf spotting sheep. "Full of original flavor, plenty of soup in addition to the meat."

The stubborn Kui Cows, upon hearing these words, remained in silence. However, the bodies of many of them have started to tremble.

They were not afraid of being slaughtered, but the thought of becoming food after their deaths made their hearts full of sorrow; this despair far exceeded the simple fear of death.

Once Lin Feng has opened his mouth, Xiao Budian understood what he was up to. At this point, he closely observed those Kui Cows and seized the three which had been trembling the most.

Those three Kui Cows were all relatively young, forming their Demonic Cores and being promoted to Demonic Commander only recently.

With their age and cultivation speed, they could be considered the talented ones in this Kui Cow herd, with a bright future ahead of them.

Only just forming their Demonic Cores, with boundless potential and infinite possibilities, hearts full of pride and longing for the future – but unavoidably, more afraid of death, as they were unwilling to perish at such a tender age.

A bright future was ahead of them. Forming their Demonic Cores, promoted to Demonic Commander – their lives only just got on track.

Their pride empowered them to face death with courage, but to be eaten by this human brat after being killed – this was unacceptable to them, weakening their conviction.

It wasn't even necessary for Lin Feng to act. Xiao Budian emitted the full power of his immense Mana, appearing as vast and boundless as the ocean itself. The invincible sense of power simply crushed the final mental defenses of these three Kui Cows.

That strength – it was as if standing before them was not a cute, good-looking human teenager, but an ancient beast, more barbaric and bloodthirsty than their King, who would in an instant skin them alive and devour them whole.

No "making an example of" or live demonstration was necessary. In front of this Xiao Budian, no normal person would think he was only kidding or trying to scare him.

This murderous brat will really do this sort of thing, and without any psychological burden to boot. He will, in fact, revel in it.

Even under the assumption that he wouldn't, however, besides him stood a salivating devil with gleaming eyes!

This one favors swallowing raw.

Looking on this scene, Lin Feng's lips twisted. "Come to think of it, this way of interrogation is truly rather brutal."

The mental defenses of the three young Cows completely crumbled, spitting out every single thing they knew – not even seeking to live, but merely not to end up in Xiao Budian's plate after death.

"Saros Steel Tree?" Hearing this, Lin Feng's eyes opened in surprise.

Not counting the one-of-a-kind, mysterious Black Heavenly

Treasure Tree on Mount Yujing, normally, it was recognized that there existed Four Great Strange Trees within the Grand Celestial World – the Ginseng Fruit Tree, the Divine Parasol Tree, the Celestial Jade Tree, and the Saros Steel Tree.

Strictly speaking, up till now Lin Feng has not even seen one of them. The only one he came into contact with was that Celestial Jade Tree Demon, Long Ye – but at that time, Long Ye's body has been completely destroyed after the battle with Yan Mingyue, with only a strand of soul remaining.

But come to think of it, Long Ye was capable of challenging the then All-Under-Heavens Strider, Yan Mingyue, thus her strength was indubitable. If she was incompetent, the Heavenly Charms Grand Sage would probably have not selected her as her protégé, even passing on the Demonic Clan's strongest surviving mantra, the Hunyuan Demonic Code.

From this, one can get a glimpse of the mystical properties of the Celestial Jade Tree.

It was especially because the Four Great Strange Trees were all extraordinarily gifted, possessing countless uses and formidable spiritual energy, that not a trace of them could be seen in the human world of the Divine Lands.

Because human cultivators have chopped them down long ago.

If you wish to see these Four Great Strange Trees, you could only do so in the Demonic world of the Barren Expanses.

The Saros Steel Tree, being listed alongside the Celestial Jade Tree as one of the Four Great Strange Trees of the universe, naturally has its exceptional traits. It was rumored that the Saros Steel Tree was naturally indestructible and invulnerable, durable beyond extremes. Apart from a select few natural enemies, no one could harm a single leaf.

Even the toughness of a small sapling was beyond the abilities of the ordinary man to harm.

The Saros Steel Tree has been extinct in the Divine Lands long ago. The last Saros Steel Tree there was planted in the old Buddhist Holy Land – the Great Thunderclap Temple, guarding the Great Thunderclap Temple's Forest of Stupas and possessing unthinkable powers.

That day when the many powers allied to vanquish Buddhism, tens of thousands from the Great Zhou Empire's Divine Martial Army, led by Marquis of Xuanji, Zhu Hongwu, himself, formed the Almighty Celestial Destroyer Formation and after days and nights of intense fighting, blasted open the Great Thunderclap Temple's defense formation, the Vairocana Formation, with brute force.

But it is this very incredibly strong Almighty Celestial Destroyer Formation that ran into a wall before that Saros Steel Tree, trying with all its might but still unable to destroy it.

Ultimately, it was only with the help of the Mount Shu Sword Sect, using one of the Saros Steel Tree's natural enemies and

together with the Almighty Celestial Destroyer Formation, that the Saros Steel Tree was cut down, leading to the destruction of the final Holy Land of the Great Thunderclap Temple, the Forest of Stupas where the śarīras of past generations of monks were buried.

Still, the final blow of the Saros Steel Tree caused the demise of that Immortal God from the Mount Shu Sword Sect – the battle was bloody beyond belief.

But ever since that battle, the Saros Steel Tree had been completely extinct in the Divine Lands.

Lin Feng had never thought that today, he could encounter a Saros Steel Tree here.

Although according to what those Kui Cows said, this Saros Steel Tree is but a sapling, it still made Lin Feng extremely tempted.

By its level of rarity, it might even be considered a lone surviving sample.

"How did you discover this sapling?" Lin Feng asked.

A Kui Cow shook its head. "We didn't discover it. That sapling was planted by Master, and later transplanted here, in Mount Kunlun."

"Master? Transplant?" Lin Feng remained expressionless. "You moved here together with others?"

"That's right. We used to live at Mount Liubo, seven thousand miles across the East Sea. We listened to the teachings of the Flowing Waves Holy Man, and revered him as our Master. Later, the Holy Man brought the Saros Steel Tree with him to the Mount Kunlun area; we the Kui Cow Clan willingly follows the Holy Man, so we came here together."

Since he took the title of Holy Man, then he should be one of the Immortal Gods; just that his name wasn't well known, likely an independent cultivator from beyond the seas.

As Lin Feng plotted silently, he said emotionlessly, "The Flowing Waves Holy Man? Where is he? I would very much like to meet him."

"Master left. We don't know where he went either." This Kui Cow obviously didn't understand the value of bluffing, and instead told Lin Feng honestly.

Seeing his simplicity, Lin Feng can't help but shake his head, speechless.

He pointed with his fingers and balls of purple gas emerged, scooping up everyone and flying in the direction of the distant Kui Cow herd.

Lin Feng didn't hide his trail either, winding up his powers and speeded towards the Kui Cow herd. Just as he approached, with still hundreds of miles remaining, a pillar of demonic energy shot

up high into the sky, resembling a bolt of raging lightning.

The demonic energy rocketed straight into the Heavens like smoke, transforming into a huge thundercloud and instantly enveloping a hundred-mile radius, with white flashes of lightning blinking non-stop within the thundercloud.

From the source of the demonic energy, a thunderous roar emerged. "Who dares cometh?"

Lin Feng gazed at the distant mountains and saw hundreds of Kui Cows congregated together, pairs and pairs of eyes gathered in staring at Lin Feng's party.

In the middle stood a mammoth Kui Cow, taller than even the surrounding mountains and larger as well. The master of that terrifying demonic energy was none other than this Kui Cow.

The Kui Cow King who had already formed his Demon Soul.

At this moment, the Kui Cow King had an extremely grave and solemn expression on his face, cautiously staring at Lin Feng with uneasiness in his gaze.

Chapter 262: Plentiful Bounty

The Kui Cow King gazed solemnly at Lin Feng, who was floating in the sky. Although Lin Feng appeared unremarkable, the Kui Cow King did not dare to be even a little careless.

Even if nothing else, the very fact that Lin Feng remained calm and composed with the Kui Cow King pushing his demonic energy to the limits was enough to warrant the Kui Cow King being extremely wary.

"Who dares cometh?" The Kui Cow King asked deeply, his voice sounding like blasts of thunder.

However, Lin Feng's attention was not on the Kui Cow King. His gaze landed on a small patch of ground below the body of the Kui Cow King; there grew a short sapling, merely 2-3 meters tall, a toothpick compared to the Kui Cow King's immense body.

The sapling was entirely jet-black like the finest iron. Several tender leaves grew out of the slender stem, but they were a golden hue, shimmering with a faint glow.

Lin Feng nodded his head. "So, this is that Saros Steel Tree sapling?"

Carefully probing the fluctuations of spiritual energy, a thought surfaced. "The spiritual energy has not yet been converted into demonic energy, which means that this Saros Steel Tree is not yet a demon. It has not spawned its own consciousness and thoughts,

just the most basic instincts of a plant."

With that thought, Lin Feng felt as if he thought of something, but not quite clear enough to discern what.

"Never mind, get my hands on this Saros Steel Tree first and think about it later." Lin Feng shook his head, temporarily putting other thoughts behind him.

Seeing Lin Feng's gaze fixed squarely on the Saros Steel Tree sapling, the Kui Cow King was enraged. "So, another thief coveting this Strange Tree!"

There was no time for him to consider his uneasiness towards Lin Feng as he summoned thunderclouds. A massive bolt of lightning fell from the sky, blasting towards Lin Feng's head.

Lin Feng didn't even acknowledge him, with his gaze still fixed on the Saros Steel Tree sapling.

With a cry, the body of the Black Dragon Jieyu materialized. His black scales vibrated as countless runes flashed, activating the Royal Bastille Curse and resisted the lightning from the skies with the high magical-defense Bastille scales.

Among the blasts, Jieyu saw that all of the runes on his scales were shaking, and couldn't help but freeze silently. "Such strong lightning...this Kui Cow is Intermediate Demonic Lord Stage."

However, Jieyu was not even frightened but simply pounced savagely, engaging the Kui Cow King.

Although the Kui Cow was one of the Immemorial strange beasts as well, compared to the Immemorial Celestial Dragon Clan, it was still inherently inferior by a notch. Even if Jieyu fights him, an Intermediate Demonic Lord, as a Beginner Demonic Lord, it was still a reasonable match.

If Jieyu manages to seize an opportunity and engage in close melee combat, exercising the natural advantage of the Bastille Black Dragon, even the Kui Cow King must avoid him.

"A dragon? A Demonic Lord-level dragon?" The tone of the Kui Cow King changed abruptly. As he dodges Jieyu's attack, his gaze was visibly tinged with shock and wariness as he stared at Lin Feng.

"With a Demonic Lord-level dragon as your stead and appearing around the northern foot of Mount Kunlun...you are the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders?"

Lin Feng's personal reputation has already reached a peak around the northern foot of Mount Kunlun, such that even the Kui Cow King, cloistered deep among the mountains, was somewhat aware.

Recalling Lin Feng's unbelievable powers that crushed all enemies with a finger during the Battle of Shazhou, desperation surfaced in the heart of the Kui Cow King.

Just the Black Dragon Jieyu himself would be an opponent that could not be easily dispatched, without mentioning Lin Feng standing behind him.

The other Kui Cows were inclined to attack as well, but Xiao Budian and Tuntun sandwiched them in between and glared at them menacingly, like a wolf pack and a flock of grazing sheep.

The terrifying and savage aura of the man and the beast was enough to intimidate the Kui Cow herd into refraining from any moves, not even a snort, such as to not catch the attention of the two monsters.

"All of you, run." The Kui Cow King said to his Clan. "Master treated us with tremendous kindness. Now that he is completely without a trace, this Saros Steel Tree is the only thing he left behind. I, the King, will not allow anyone else to lay a finger on it."

As he talked, the Kui Cow King abruptly took a deep breath, opening his massive mouth and swallowing the rolling thunderclouds in the sky into his belly.

Instantly, countless claps of thunder sounded out from within his body, like the earth-shaking beats of a massive drum.

Waves, condensed into matter, radiated from the Kui Cow King, in a form similar to when Xiao Budian sounded the Green Bronze Ding of Emptiness with the Hammer of the Yellow Heaven Bell.

It's just that the sound of the Green Bronze Ding of Emptiness was grand and magnificent, while the thunder from the Kui Cow King's body was low and muffled.

But where the waves traversed, all obstacles crumbled, demonstrating their immense destructive potential. Jieyu's expression transformed; no attempt was necessary, he has the feeling that his Royal Bastille Curse would not be able to withstand the Kui Cow King's abhijna.

Lin Feng's gaze remained on the Saros Steel Tree sapling. Suddenly, he saw a tiny stone talisman suspended from a small branch of the sapling.

Seeing this stone talisman, Lin Feng's heart began to palpitate. "Is it possible..."

At this moment, the Kui Cow King cranked up his abhijna, forcing Jieyu onto the defensive. Lin Feng's eyebrows twitched as he spreaded his fingers and casted the Fences of the Heavens spell, cutting off the Kui Cow King's sound waves.

Lin Feng reached out and formed a fist with his hand, and the Fences of Heavens transformed into the abhijna Heaven Arrest. The spatial energy, forming an invisible hand, seized the mountain-like Kui Cow King, rendering it immobile and unable to escape.

The Kui Cow King, stubborn as always, boosted the demonic energy throughout his body as a myriad of lightning flashed across

his skin in an attempt to break Lin Feng's grasp.

However, the strength of Lin Feng's Heaven Arrest was just too great. Despite all possible efforts by the Kui Cow King, it was still unable to escape.

The Kui Cow King, his eyes blood red, uttered a low roar as he prepared to release his Demon Soul as a last stand.

At this moment, Lin Feng opened his mouth and asked, "This... was left behind by your master, the Flowing Waves Holy Man as well?"

He pointed at the small stone talisman suspended from the Saros Steel Tree sapling.

The Kui Cow King was momentarily stunned. "That's right."

"Is his disappearance related to this stone talisman as well?" Lin Feng immediately asked. The Kui Cow King, his cool returning, replied, "Exactly, after Master left this stone talisman, he vanished and there was nothing more to be heard from him."

"I have examined it and this stone talisman does not connect to some alternate dimension, neither is it the key to some secret world. There is nothing extraordinary about it, so I have long been baffled."

Looking at Lin Feng, the Kui Cow King probed, "The Leader of

the Celestial Sect of Wonders knows about the true nature of this stone talisman?"

Lin Feng retrieved an object and placed it in his palm.

It is the same stone flute that he had obtained from Longye that day, which the Great Void Sect, Yan Mingyue and Pang Jie were all looking for.

Before, through the information obtained from Kang Nanhua, Lin Feng was largely certain that the stone flute was linked to a mysterious hidden trove and a set of Heavenly Stairs, but those stairs proved hard to trace. After failed attempts to locate it, Lin Feng had set it aside for the moment.

God knows that today, seeing this stone talisman on the Saros Steel Tree sapling, Lin Feng would discover, with bewilderment, that the stone flute responded yet again, resonating with the stone talisman.

Now, after listening to the description from the Kui Cow King, Lin Feng inferred that most likely, the Flowing Waves Holy Man has ascended that mysterious Heavenly Stairs as well, but the final outcome was hard to predict.

Did he pass the stairs and witness the wonders at the top, or was he annihilated by those mysterious stairs? Or rather, he entered some hidden trove through the stairs, but was trapped inside? None of these could be ascertained for now.

But without doubt, Lin Feng now knows a little bit more about those mysterious Heavenly Stairs.

The stone flute resonated with the stone talisman on the Saros Steel Tree, the surface of both lighting up with a whitish glow. The stone flute danced on Lin Feng's palm as if alive, while the stone talisman, hanging from the branch, oscillated like a pendulum despite the absence of wind.

At this sight, the Kui Cow King's eyes lit up with hope and expectation as he looked at Lin Feng.

A faint smile formed on Lin Feng's lips. He did not make a secret of it; "This is a strange item I obtained inadvertently. It seemed to be related to some hidden trove, but the details are unclear for now. If the opportunity arises in the future, maybe I shall go to explore it."

"As for your master, the Flowing Waves Holy Man, I have not seen him."

The Kui Cow King's expression changed several times, from loss to sorrow to eventual calm. Finally, appearing as if he just came to a hard decision, he turned to face the other Kui Cows. Mana fluctuated, seemingly as he communicated with his fellow clan members.

Moments later, all of the Kui Cows quieted down, faces firm, and nodded together at the Kui Cow King.

The Kui Cow King opened his mouth and said, "Thank you, Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, for telling us this truthfully. I am immensely grateful."

"To be able to acquire some hints to Master's whereabouts...I do not dare to push it further, but I hope that the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders could fulfill our wish to find our Master. We are willing to enlist in the Celestial Sect of Wonders and provide our services."

"We only hope that someday, when the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders explores that secret trove, he could bring us along. We have absolutely no greed nor inappropriate demands, but only hope to find Master."

Lin Feng subtly nodded. "These Kui Cows are truly loyal, with simpler hearts than ordinary humans."

"You wish to enter into my Celestial Sect of Wonders...it is not impossible." Lin Feng said emotionlessly. "I do not ask for your loyalty; you still honor your old master, I do not mind that. However, since you enter my Sect, you will follow the rules of my Sect. Can you do this?"

Humbly and respectfully, the Kui Cow King said, "We are willing to follow your commands, My Lord."

"If I were to ask you to fight the Flowing Waves Holy Man, you would definitely not obey." Lin Feng thought.

He gazed at the Saros Steel Tree sapling on the ground and said, "Since it is a memento the Flowing Waves Holy Man left you, then you shall keep it. Later, I will help you transplant it into the Celestial Sect of Wonders, where it shall still be taken care of by you."

Gratefulness rose in the Kui Cow King's heart. If Lin Feng were to take the Saros Steel Tree, he would be helpless, but now that Lin Feng voluntarily backed down, the Kui Cow King was somewhat embarrassed instead. "It was with Master undiscoverable and untraceable that we value this sapling so highly."

"Now with your aid, My Lord, we finally have prospects in the search for Master, so this sapling is naturally less important. This kind of rare treasure should be offered to the Sect; we do not dare to misappropriate it."

Lin Feng smiled silently, looking at the Kui Cow King and the hundreds of Kui Cows beside him. "Kui Cows have the natural ability to control thunder and lightning. Now, the lightning Xiao Budian needs for his cultivation is settled, not to mention an additional Demonic Lord-level stead."

"Plus this Saros Steel Tree sapling...not bad, not bad. This time, the bounty is rather plentiful."

Chapter 263: Lead The Way

With the Kui Cow King at the head, hundreds of Kui Cows bent their knees together and bowed to Lin Feng, symbolizing submission and allegiance.

With a wave of his hand, the Kui Cows taken prisoners by Xiao Budian and Tuntun regained their freedom as well. Although they were restrained by Lin Feng's spell, he had deliberately arranged for them to be able to witness everything that happened.

Now that they have regained their freedom, those Kui Cow Demonic Commanders stood behind the Kui Cow King and bowed to Lin Feng as well, willingly conceding with all their hearts.

"No need for those superfluous gestures. Rise." Lin Feng said emotionlessly, and the Kui Cow King, with his Clan, rose together. Seeing that every single one of those previously sent to harass Lin Feng were present, with not a single hair harmed, the Kui Cow King was even more grateful to Lin Feng.

None of the Kui Cows dared to make any reckless moves, standing before Lin Feng cooperatively. At the side, Xiao Budian and Tuntun had looks of disappointment and longing on their faces, as if they had missed out on a great feast.

Lin Feng, of course, knew what they were thinking. Shaking his head, amused, he patted Xiao Budian's head lightly. "You can stop looking. Although you can't eat them, they'll primarily be under your command from now on."

Xiao Budian looked deep in thought. "The Kui Cow Clan control lightning intrinsically...Master wants them to assist my cultivation?"

Lin Feng nodded. "Yes, exactly."

"But, Master, if I eat all these Cow meat and absorb the Thunder and Lightning spiritual energy within, the effect might be even better." Xiao Budian whispered.

Lin Feng, hearing this, didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Hold your gluttony, I have my strategic considerations."

"Still remember that Winder & Thunder Sigil and the Wind and Thunder Parturition Talisman Formation it activates?"

"Of course," Xiao Budian answered. "The seniors and I even used it when we were cultivating in the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World."

"However, the effect is significant only during Foundation Establishment and Qi Cultivation. After forming the Aurous Core, the effects will be greatly diminished."

Chuckling, Lin Feng said, "That's because simply setting up the Wind and Thunder Parturition Talisman Formation with the Wind & Thunder Sigil is only the most basic form of this Talisman Formation. To enhance its effect, other materials and conditions are needed."

"Treasures without life but rich in Thunder and Wind spiritual energy can strengthen the effects of the Wind and Thunder Parturition Talisman Formation, but those aren't the best either."

"If you want to maximize the effects of the Wind and Thunder Parturition Talisman Formation, it's best to let two life forms, rich in Thunder and Wind spiritual energy respectively, reside within the Talisman Formation. The wind and thunder energy will feedback and react, continuously exciting each other." Lin Feng explained

"Also, with the nourishment of life and blood, the effect is far more impressive compared to lifeless inanimate objects."

Xiao Budian, finally understanding, glanced at the herd of Kui Cows, his gaze finally settling on the Kui Cow King. "That's Thunder, what about Wind? If it's that Feilian, the cultivation stage and power are a little low..."

"Ah, I know!" Xiao Budian's lively black eyes lit up, grinning. "Rumor has it that the Aeolus Sect historically keep Feilians, with even a Feilian King that has formed its Demon Soul..."

The Master and the Disciple both smiled at the same time. Lin Feng said, "Bring those Kui Cows back first. The Feilian King and the Aeolus Sect could wait for now."

Xiao Budian, staring at the Kui Cows, looked totally miserable. "Then...just leaving the Kui Cow King should be enough..."

Lin Feng, shaking his head, was almost prepared to give up on this glutton. He flicked Xiao Budian's head, annoyed; "There are other purposes to keep them for; there'll be plenty of goodies for you then. Keep a long view! Remember to look at the pot as well as the bowl in front of you."

Xiao Budian stuck out his tongue but did not say anything else, instead looking at the Kui Cows sadly and sighed, downcast.

At his side, the little Taotie, Tuntun, 's eyes were wet, on the verge of tears.

Ignoring these two gluttonous clowns, Lin Feng, with a whip of his sleeve, released Zhuge Fengling and her pet, that Gold-Digging Mouse.

"S...Sir." Just like those Kui Cow Demonic Commanders, although restrained by spells, Zhuge Fengling can clearly observe what was happening. Because of that, standing before Lin Feng now, she did not dare even to breath heavily.

Always eloquent, she now stutters even when simply speaking.

Right now, at the northern foot of Mount Kunlun, Lin Feng's reputation was at its height, with few unaware of his name.

These days, Zhuge Fengling had been active in the Mount Kunlun area. Naturally, she knows the name of Lin Feng and the Celestial

Sect of Wonders, as well as being familiar with their exploits and achievements.

Precisely because of that, recalling how she had continuously harassed Lin Feng and even tried to use him for her own ends, Zhuge Fengling felt the world spinning before her eyes, on the verge of blacking out.

They say you must never touch a tiger's posterior; she had literally been plucking the tiger's whiskers.

"Lord Lin, Master Lin, Grandpa Lin!" Zhuge Fengling howled silently. "If you're so strong, just say so! You're playing me to death!"

Lin Feng gazed at Zhuge Fengling silently and emotionlessly, exacerbating her anxiety further. The little ears of the Gold-Digging Mouse on her shoulder drooped wearily, waiting for Lin Feng's final judgement along with its master.

"I seem to recall someone saying that she will happily offer her services? Very good, I happen to have something for you to do." Lin Feng said calmly. "To be precise, for you to be a guide."

Zhuge Fengling relaxed slightly. "Please feel free, I will definitely complete the task to the best of my abilities!"

Lin Feng nodded. "That would be for the best."

"Previously, there was an eruption of Avīci Infernal Gale in the mountains near Lingyun Peak. You were swept up but now it looks like you managed to escape. I'm not interested in how you escaped, but rather in the Avīci Infernal Gale."

"Where was the place where you last came into contact with the Avīci Infernal Gale? Lead the way."

At first, Zhuge Fengling's expression was still rather relaxed, but as she listened, her face slowly changed. At the end, her entire face had a look of despair.

Lin Feng looked at her silently. "There's a problem?"

He smiled. "If there's a problem, say so. I am a reasonable person."

"No...no problem at all." Zhuge Fengling answered drily, but her voice sounds like she bit her tongue.

"Good." Lin Feng turned to face Xiao Budian, Yue Hongyan, Tuntun and Jieyu. "Here's an experiential task for you. Follow her to find the Avīci Infernal Gale, duration – fifteen days."

"Return punctually after fifteen days. As for whether you can obtain the Avīci Infernal Gale, that will depend on luck and destiny."

Xiao Budian and Yue Hongyan bowed together. "As Master

commands."

"As my Lord commands." Jieyu answered obediently as well.

Only Tuntun curled its lips. "That stuff doesn't even taste good, why get it?" It mumbled.

Lin Feng didn't acknowledge it either, staring at Zhuge Fengling calmly. "As you command." Zhuge Fengling replied hurriedly.

Xiao Budian glanced at her. "Master, when we return fifteen days later, what about this little girl? Escort her back as well?"

Upon hearing that, Zhuge Fengling, speechless, howled silently. "Who's a little girl? Please, I'm much older than you! You yourself are a little boy, little brat, stupid little kid!"

A hundred curses ran through her head, but she just happen to not dare to say a thing; so agitated that she was on the verge of bursting.

The Gold-Digging Mouse's telepathic message sounded in her heart – one of the privileges of blood-pact pets.

"Fengling, you're crazy! We almost died escaping the Avīci Infernal Gale last time, are we really going to go back now?"

"Now that we're under his yoke, we must bear with it for now

and think about making off first." Zhuge Fengling said bitterly but silently. "We just have to get away from this Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders and there is at least a fifty-fifty chance of escaping."

"As long as the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders is not with us, whether to look for the Avīci Infernal Gale will be up to my mood. If I'm in a good mood, we just shake them off and run. If not, we lead them into the Avīci Infernal Gale's eye and teach them a lesson, as well as vent some of our frustration!"

The Gold-Digging Mouse's ears twitched. "I think it's better to just run. Firstly, the Avīci Infernal Gale is simply too dangerous; second, if something really happens to them – even if it's just a scratch – the Leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders would not spare us."

Zhuge Fengling snorted. "That stupid kid had it lucky."

In spite of the rhetoric, Zhuge Fengling understands as well that with Xiao Budian's current strength and abilities, plus the protection of the Green Bronze Ding of Emptiness, even Avīci Infernal Gale Avīci Infernal Gale – if a relatively small amount – might not be able to kill him.

Furthermore, accompanying them was Jieyu, a Demonic Lord-level dragon. Even if something happens, they'll at least be able to escape.

"I haven't really interacted with that red-haired woman, but she

seems to be the straightforward type." Zhuge Fengling has already started to plan her escape strategy. "The stupid kid and that little girl should both be easily deceived."

"It's just this dragon that's unknown – is it clever enough?"

Focused on her calculations, she was oblivious that her mental fluctuations have all been observed by Lin Feng.

Lin Feng did not use his powers to probe her soul or read her specific thoughts, but just by sensing her psychological changes, Lin Feng knew that she was up to something.

Even without asking, he knew that she was thinking about how to use the opportunity to escape.

Lin Feng looked at her, amused. "If you think that Xiao Budian is easy to deal with because he's young, you're in for a surprise."

"How to deal with her, you decide yourself fifteen days later. I will give the decision to you." He told Xiao Budian.

Seeing Xiao Budian and Zhuge Fengling's eyes light up simultaneously, Lin Feng smiled cunningly and silently.

After watching Xiao Budian and co. leave, Lin Feng turned to the Kui Cow King. "You can follow me back."

The Kui Cows all answered deferentially. With a whip of his sleeve, Lin Feng swept up the Saros Steel Tree sapling in the ground, together with the earth.

Even though it's but a sapling, the Saros Steel Tree was already showing some potential, being anchored in the ground and not easily moved. Seeing its extraordinariness, Lin Feng did not bother with the formalities and simply used the Dual Dimension Vacuum Charm to slice the space apart, sweeping up the sapling.

"After it grows some more, it should be able to secure the spatial dimension." Lin Feng stowed the sapling and sliced open Space, flying back to Mount Yujing with the Kui Cows.

Just as he landed on the peak of Mount Yujing, Lin Feng felt something through his senses. "This feeling...little Wang Lin is going to advance to Intermediate Foundation Establishment stage, establishing his Spiritual Altar?"

Chapter 264: External Force Is Required

In a flash, Lin Feng has already entered the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World. Wang Lin, sitting cross-legged below the small Black Heavenly Treasure Tree, has his eyes closed, in the middle of cultivation.

Wang Lin now has streaks and streaks of black gas wrapped around his body, glimmering with a gentle purple glow.

Within the cold void of the Destructive Power Concept, divine creation and birth can be subtly sensed.

Lin Feng knew that this means Wang Lin has gained a deeper understanding of the Grand Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams. He had originally grasped some of the Destruction Truth in the Polarity of Creation and Destruction, and now he has touched the wonders of Creation.

The two, combined, have finally enabled him to break through the mental bottleneck and start to establish his Spiritual Altar, thus attempting to advance to Intermediate Foundation Establishment stage.

Lin Feng quietly landed at his side without disturbing him. Without talking, he radiated his own Mana outwards, forming a cloud of purple gas and enveloping Wang Lin.

Partly to protect and guide Wang Lin, and partly to discreetly probe the specific occurrences as Wang Lin establishes the

Spiritual Altar.

In Wang Lin's Aura Sea, black gas spirals upwards like thick fog. Lin Feng passed through the black fog and saw that in the center of the Aura Sea, a purple Spiritual Altar was slowly rising, streams of faint yellow water wrapped around it.

The Grand Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams as the core and River Styx Primordial Water as the auxiliary, with Destructive Power merged in. This, is the inchoate form of Wang Lin's Spiritual Altar.

But the rate of establishment of Wang Lin's Spiritual Altar made Lin Feng's brows scrunch.

When Xiao Budian and co. established their Spiritual Altars, the preparations took a long time, but the actual establishment was completed in a matter of seconds.

But although Wang Lin's Spiritual Altar was forming at a perceptible speed as well, it was visibly much slower.

This caused a bad feeling to manifest in Lin Feng's mind. Under his gaze, Wang Lin's Spiritual Altar was erected level by level, but the rate was constantly decreasing.

In reality, a small leaf was plastered on Wang Lin's forehead. That was the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree leaf that Lin Feng left him, which has a certain probability of enhancing the quality of

the Spiritual Altar.

Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing both used it before; the effect was pretty good. Yue Hongyan, especially, used the opportunity to improve his originally Class Two Spiritual Altar to First Class Spiritual Altar - an impossibly powerful effect.

Now, the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree leaf was shining with a faint glow, forming a streak of light and merging into Wang Lin's body.

This streak of light entered Wang Lin's Aura Sea, into the Spiritual Altar that he was slowly establishing.

Lin Feng stared at Wang Lin's Spiritual Altar nervously, but after absorbing the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree leaf, Wang Lin's Spiritual Altar was still not showing notable improvements.

"The risk of failure just happens to fall on little Wang Lin?" Lin Feng's brows twisted. This was definitely not the outcome he wanted to see – the one who needed the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree leaf the most to improve his Spiritual Altar quality, just happened to not succeed.

Seeing that Wang Lin's Spiritual Altar was even showing signs of completion, Lin Feng fell into a spell of silence.

One, two, three, four. Wang Lin's Spiritual Altar only has a mere four tiers.

Class Six Spiritual Altar.

With the abundant spiritual energy of Mount Yujing, the divine creation powers of the Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds, a top mantra like the Grand Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams, support of spiritual elixirs like the Celestial Elixir and the Barrier-Breaking Elixir, the Spiritual Altar that Wang Lin established, in the end, was only Class Six.

Lin Feng was originally still rather worried if not giving Wang Lin Spiritual Replenishment Elixir in advance would affect him establishing the Spiritual Altar, but looking at it now, even if Wang Lin had used the Spiritual Replenishment Elixir, the Spiritual Altar would at most be Class Four or Five.

Even if the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree leaf had worked, it would not be anything higher than a Class Three.

But only Class One or Two Spiritual Altars, forming Class One or Two Crucibles, have the hope of forming Purple Pills when Aurous Cores were formed.

As for Lin Feng, as well as Xiao Budian, Xiao Yan and Zhu Yi, the appearance of visions for their Aurous Cores was due to Purple Pills.

It was impossible for Red Pills, Green Pills and Yellow Pills to produce strange visions.

In fact, at Foundation Establishment and Aurous Core stages, Lin Feng's Grand Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams was the greatest mantra of human cultivators, superior to that of the Great Void Sect – which was why Xiao Budian and co. had such fighting prowess.

The "Great" and "Void" Ways of the Great Void Sect – the Mantra of the Great Oblivion and the Yin Yang Mantra of the Void – possess unthinkable capabilities. Paired with the great talent of their disciples, the possibility of establishing a Class Two Spiritual Altar was almost hundred-percent, in addition to a fixed possibility of establishing a First Class Spiritual Altar as well.

The results of progress for top mantras are extremely good, with their cultivators far surpassing others. However, corresponding with that was extremely high difficulty of cultivation as well.

Why was the Great Void Sect a center full of geniuses? A key reason was their mantra. It was extremely hard for a person of mediocre talent to make substantial progress in cultivating the Great Void Sect mantras – this was due to objective facts, not them engaging in any active discrimination.

But Lin Feng's Grand Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams was even more ridiculous – with accomplishment, First Class Spiritual Altar was almost a certainty.

If this information was leaked, it would drive the whole Grand Celestial World mad.

But because of the same reason, the level of complexity and abstruseness of the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams was even higher than the Great Void Sect mantra. Hence, Lin Feng has long been planning to prepare a different mantra for new disciples – based on the Grand Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams, but slightly more low-level and easier.

Zhu Yi's Yi Zi's Eight Trigrams Variorum was just a start, for Qi Cultivation stage disciples to build their foundation. After those Qi Cultivation stage disciples advance to Foundation Establishment stage, other mantras will be needed.

Actually, with Wang Lin's physical endowment, the difficulty of cultivating the Grand Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams was extremely high. It was exceedingly hard to erect the Spiritual Altar; if it was someone else with the same talent, he would be stuck at Beginner Foundation Establishment for the rest of his life.

But Wang Lin just happens to possess unthinkable intelligence and determination, such that he managed to forge a path out of the impossible, successfully establishing his Spiritual Altar using the Grand Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams. However, the result was the limited Class of the Spiritual Altar.

"The Great Tao is the absolute of simplicity. True supreme Tao should be suitable for any one under the Heavens; regardless of talent, they can all bath in the grace." Lin Feng thought silently. "I can feel that, at the end of my Heavenly Classic of the Way's Virtues, it should be this Way as well."

"But now there are only the Eight Trigrams articles and the Four Appearances articles; the incomplete mantra becomes more esoteric and profound, incredibly difficult for one to understand."

Lin Feng sighed, reaching out and tapping on Wang Lin's forehead with a finger.

A streak of purple gas entered Wang Lin's Aura Sea, landing on his almost-completed Class Six Spiritual Altar. In silence, Wang Lin's Spiritual Altar disintegrated and crumbled.

With the nourishment of Lin Feng's Mana, Wang Lin was not injured, with no harm done to even his Mana and spirit.

He opened his eyes and, speechless, bowed in front of Lin Feng.

At this moment, even though Wang Lin's determination was the maximum, he still felt a slight dejection. Facing Lin Feng, who had always been teaching and nurturing him, he felt a pang of shame and remorse.

Among all of his seniors and juniors, he was the most persistent and diligent, but the final results were not satisfactory – ending up at the bottom of everyone.

Lin Feng gazed at Wang Lin silently. Wang Lin's talent potential given by the Talent Analysis Device was five points; aka, the system thinks that without the intervention of major external forces, Wang Lin's final physical talent would still be five points.

Lin Feng looked up at the sky. After an instant, his gaze became determined. "Without the intervention of external forces, the maximum is five points? Very well, then I shall be this external force!"

He looked down at Wang Lin and said calmly, "Do not be hasty and do not feel pressured. I have already made arrangements about your circumstances; it's just that the opportunity is not ripe yet."

Wang Lin looked up, staring at Lin Feng's confident gaze; his emotions became calmer and calmer as well.

The look of distress disappeared in a flash as Wang Lin's face turned dispassionate once again and bowed to Lin Feng respectfully. "I am a failure, to make Master expend energy for me..."

"You came under my wing, I would naturally protect you and make arrangements for you."

After sending Wang Lin to nurture his Mana and continue his cultivation, Lin Feng, his hands behind his back, was calculating in his mind. "The two plans...which is more suitable?"

"Never mind, let's see what bounty there is from the Ancient Huanghai World this time, and then make the final decision." Lin Feng thought, his eye gleaming. "Actually, I don't really want to use the first plan, but I need to see if some idiotic bastard would go and impale himself on the sword."

Exiting the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World, it was already night after Lin Feng finished settling the Kui Cows in. He went to the Disciples' Abode – the newly entered disciples were all resting inside.

After a quick sensing, Lin Feng discovered that in less than a month, all of the new disciples have touched the door to Qi Cultivation.

These disciples were all rather talented; even though they could not compare to those inhuman immediate disciples of Lin Feng's, they would still be ordinarily considered genius-level.

With Zhu Yi's diligent teaching and the Disciples' Abode gathering spiritual energy to nourish their bodies, it was somewhat expected that they would have this kind of progress.

"After a period of time, I will also show my face before those disciples and conduct some lectures. That can direct them in their cultivation, as well as enhance the cohesion of the Sect."

After leaving the Disciples' Abode, Lin Feng had a thought and turned to the other side.

There, stand the houses he formed out of the Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds. The children he brought were living here.

The large house was separated into numerous small rooms. Lin

Feng walked into one of the rooms, and saw a figure sitting there silently.

At his side lies a child, sleeping soundly.

"Nanhua?" Lin Feng's brows twitched slightly, recognizing that that figure was Kang Nanhua, but Kang Nanhua's emotions now were causing him some confusion.

Kang Nanhua's gaze at the child contained some elements of pain.

Three-tenths pity, three-tenths sorry, three-tenths regret, and one-tenth deep fury.

This was the first time Lin Feng saw this sort of intense emotional expression from Kang Nanhua. Observant, he realized that Kang Nanhua's emotions were not targeted at the child, but rather, absorbed within his own memories.

This child evoked his memories, giving him a place to entrust his emotions.

Although he had known that Kang Nanhua likes the company of children, but seeing this scene, Lin Feng was still moved, knowing that things were not that simple. Looking at Kang Nanhua now, you could tell that within his heart exists a knot.

A psychological knot that was almost like an inner demon now.

Seeing Lin Feng, Kang Nanhua let out a long breath, the pain in his gaze vanishing and only intense despair remaining.

He nodded slightly at Lin Feng without speaking. Lin Feng did not speak but walked out of the house first, and Kang Nanhua left as well, following behind him.

Chapter 265: Forward Always

Lin Feng exited the house, strolling under the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree. Kang Nanhua walked three steps after him, wandering together aimlessly.

"Nanhua, aren't you going to invite me to your abode?" Lin Feng turned to him, smiling.

Kang Nanhua gave a slight nod. "My pleasure. My Lord, please."

The two seated themselves in Kang Nanhua's quarters. Lin Feng gazed at Kang Nanhua in silence. "I have no intentions of intruding in others' privacy, but you give me the feeling that you need a listener."

Kang Nanhua has a forlorn expression on his face. "Sorry, my Lord."

He spoke softly. "Seeing those kids, I was reminded of some past happenings and my mental state is rather volatile now."

Hearing this, Lin Feng's features became graver.

Kang Nanhua was already a supreme cultivator who had formed his Soul, having overcome life and death, even the Heavens and the Earth themselves. His mental state was exceptionally solid.

But now, he himself admitted that his mental state was no longer unwavering. You can tell that his mental knot was exceedingly serious, having become an inner demon and undermining the heart of his Tao.

"It was a long while ago, three scores and eleven years ago." Kang Nanhua said slowly.

"To be precise, three scores and eleven years, three months, and fifteen days."

"At that time, I have just attained Advanced Foundation Establishment, forming my Class Two Crucible. That was when I was at the peak of boldness and confidence." Kang Nanhua reminisced.

Lin Feng glanced at him. Kang Nanhua's Aurous Core was of the highest quality – Purple Pill, which was possible only for those with Class One or Two Crucibles. It was by no means a certainty even for them; the slightest error would result in the inferior Red Pill instead.

Kang Nanhua did not hail from a major Sect – he inherited the Tao of the ancient independent cultivator, the Taoist Liusha, by chance. He did not have the guidance of a Master, nor the resources of a Sect; he could only depend on himself to cultivate through experimentation and exploration.

Furthermore, his first mantra, the Secret Mantra of the Flowing Sand, was only a fragment of the Ancient Mantra of the Flowing

Sand of Ganges.

Even in those circumstances, he was able to form a Class Two Crucible. This was definitely an exceedingly improbable event that would put the vast majority of prodigies and geniuses to shame.

It was absolutely impossible solely through his own talent, unless both his Innate Ability and Intelligence were the maximum ten points.

Sensing Lin Feng's look, Kang Nanhua seemed to preempt his question. "When I was erecting my Spiritual Altar, I managed to get lucky. Or else, I might very well have ended up with a Class Four Spiritual Altar."

"As expected, Fortune is needed as well." Lin Feng nodded, silent. Blessed by Lady Fortune and having overcome an immense obstacle in his cultivation; Kang Nanhua then must be most daring and exuberant.

The pain surfaced in Kang Nanhua's gaze once again as he stared at the ceiling of the cave, but without focus. "Although I have formed a Class Two Crucible, my cultivation has encountered a bottleneck, and I was just unable to form my Aurous Core. The Tao of the Aurous Core seemed so distant from me..."

To an independent cultivator without a Master's instruction or the support of a Sect, major stage advancements were the most difficult, having to depend on your own foraging and understanding.

"I felt that mediation and reclusion were not bearing fruit, so I decided to go out and travel as I tried to overcome the barrier of Life and Death." Kang Nanhua spoke slowly. "When I was walking in the mountains, I came across a small village."

"Although life was hard there, the villagers were warm and welcoming, and they received me enthusiastically. There, everyone, young or old, had to scale the rocks and crevices everyday. They collect a type of spiritual herb, which they sell to outsiders in exchange for basic necessities."

Through Kang Nanhua's descriptions, Lin Feng understood that those cliffs were exceedingly precipitous and steep.

Of course, they were nothing to cultivators. Even Qi Disciples, as long as they were Level Three or Four, can walk on them like it was flat ground, not to mention Aurous Core or Foundation Establishment cultivators.

But to ordinary humans, those cliffs were the most dangerous places. No matter how adequate your preparations or how long your experience, it was still like dancing on the edge of a knife every single time.

Villagers frequently fall from those cliffs while collecting herbs, never to see their loved ones again. Still, to the villagers, those herbs were their most precious source of revenue.

"It's not that they do not fear death, but rather, the pressures and

desire to survive overcame the fear of death and danger." Kang Nanhua shook his head. "Or maybe there's some belief of luck in there as well?"

"That is how humanity has survived and thrived to this day." Lin Feng said dispassionately. "You and I, we cultivate, we search for the Tao – isn't that the same thing?"

"Yes. Watching them toe the line between life and death had a huge impact on me." Kang Nanhua nodded. "It's somewhat embarrassing, but before that, although I was devoted to cultivation and the Tao, I had little exposure to this sort of things. This is probably the primary reason I encountered my bottleneck when attempting to form the Aurous Core."

His gaze became overcome by nostalgia. The pain dissipated as warmth and joy emerged – a rare sight.

"I wanted to experience up close the fear and courage of the villagers as they walk life and death, and so settled down there. In addition, I tried to teach them some Qi cultivation techniques and mantras; although most do not have the talent to cultivate, but they could at least serve to strengthen their physique and help them survive in the wilderness."

"I, instead, gave up my Mana and powers completely and learned to scale the cliffs and collect the herbs from the villagers. There were quite a few times when I really thought I was going to die." Kang Nanhua said.

Lin Feng smiled as Kang Nanhua's lips curved upwards as well. "Almost everyone in the village lack the talent to learn mantras or cultivate. The Qi cultivation ways that I taught them could only be used to nourish the body and the blood."

"Except for one seven-year-old girl. Girls in little villages don't have proper names – the villagers all called her Mao Ya. Mao Ya was really quick to understand mantras, and she was pretty talented naturally."

In his subconscious, Lin Feng understood as he sighed. "Looks like this little girl is the source of Kang Nanhua's mental knot."

As he thought, at this point, Kang Nanhua became downcast once again. "While I was in the village, I lived in Mao Ya's house. Mao Ya's parents both passed away a few years back, but she still lives on, with determination and resolve – it was her who taught me, first-hand, collecting herbs from the cliffs as well."

"We were teacher and pupil, but we were also friends. I teach her mantras and the Tao, while she instructs me on ascending those steep cliffs without using Mana. We enjoyed each other's company, for about a year."

Lin Feng was going to tease that Kang Nanhua has lolicon, but seeing his current mood, decided against the idea.

Besides, he could also tell that the relationship between Kang Nanhua and that little girl was simply friendship, without considerations of age; or even just a man's avuncular love and care

for a child.

"What happened afterwards?" Lin Feng asked quietly.

"Afterwards?" Kang Nanhua's face turned an even darker shade as he uttered the words. "One day, Mao Ya and I returned from collecting herbs, only to see the village in shambles – a raid by bandits."

"The leader of those bandits was a Qi Disciple cultivator. They left word that any herbs that the village collects must be offered to them unconditionally; if anyone dared object, they will massacre the entire village."

"After I heard that, I was going to go off in search of the bandits' lair immediately." Kang Nanhua said.

The pain in his gaze was intensifying. "At that time, Mao Ya asked me if anything would happen to the village. She said she's scared. Very scared."

"I told her that it's okay, that nothing would happen to them. That I would protect them, absolutely."

Lin Feng's pupils contracted as he stared at Kang Nanhua. Knowing Kang Nanhua, this, for him, was equivalent to a promise made to Mao Ya.

To Kang Nanhua, honoring his promises and pledges was his

principle. A red line that would never be compromised or crossed.

And that, was often the source of his pain and suffering as well.

As he thought, Kang Nanhua continued. "I found those bandits and discovered that that was far from the entirety of their crimes – to them, murder and plunder were mundane events. So, I sent them to where they should go."

"Concerned that they would later take revenge on the villagers, I took care to examine the place thoroughly to ensure that there was none who slipped through the net before returning to the village."

As he said this, Kang Nanhua abruptly fell into a silence.

Lin Feng did not speak either; seated, they faced each other silently. After a long lull, Kang Nanhua's faint voice reverberated in the cave, detached and impassive, without the slightest hint of emotion – just a numbness that betrayed the deepest sorrow.

"The village was destroyed. Everyone was dead. Mao Ya was also dead. I looked into her open eyes – I could even see hope in those eyes. I knew, I was that hope. But in the end, I disappointed her."

The cave fell into a spell of silence once more, with not even the sound of breathing being heard.

Lin Feng was quiet for a while before he said, "This should be an accident. Those who massacred the village are not part of the

bandits you sought out – probably, they are completely unrelated parties."

Kang Nanhua's body, which had resembled an inanimate statue, finally twitched as he nodded. "Yes, that was what I thought as well."

Despite the movement, Lin Feng could feel no life in Kang Nanhua, with only his hollow voice in the cave. "But regardless of whether they were related, the end result was still the same. Mao Ya was dead. Everyone in the village was dead."

"And I did not even know who he was. I could not even avenge them." Kang Nanhua's eyes closed once more. "This person, and Zhang Lie – they are both my inner demon."

Lin Feng, staring at Kang Nanhua, sighed. He knew that the murder of Mao Yao and the rest, and when Zhang Lie used the Covenant of Liefeng as human sacrifices – those were possibly the only two times in Kang Nanhua's life that he made a promise to someone else, but ultimately failed to honor it.

No wonder when he met Kang Nanhua again at the Hundred Herbs Sect, he found him depressed and despondent.

Presumably, after what happened to Mao Ya and the rest, he vowed that that was the first time, and the last time. The only time.

But the Covenant of Liefeng human sacrifice incident – not only did it rub salt into his wound, it even undermined Kang Nanhua's faith and convictions.

What's fortunate was that this time, the target, Zhang Lie, had a clear identity and background. Rage and hatred gave Kang Nanhua a psychological rock – or else Lin Feng suspects that not only would he fail to form his Soul, but even regress in his cultivation.

From some people's perspective, Kang Nanhua was making a mountain out of a molehill, shouldering a burden that did not belong to him.

But people differ. Every person has his own path, his own convictions, his own principles – we all have beliefs that others would not understand.

Lin Feng stood up, walked over to Kang Nanhua and patted his shoulder lightly. "I will not tell you rubbish like 'Never look back'. There is nothing wrong with looking back – but don't restrain yourself or stop in your tracks because of that."

"Even if you walk backwards, your eyes on the past, your feet must move forward, always. This is to not let the regrets of the past repeat themselves; I believe you understand this simple maxim."

Kang Nanhua was silent for a moment. He nodded and stood up. "I understand. Sorry to disturb you today, my Lord."

Lin Feng shook his head, smiling. He smiled in a self-deprecating manner as a thought came across him. "What's wrong today? Having mental problems one after another – did you guys form a group or something?"

Having said his farewells to Kang Nanhua, Lin Feng left the cave and re-entered the Heavenly Cosmic Ray world. There, Zhu Yi was gazing at the void above vacantly.

Chapter 266: Death In Doubt

Lin Feng frowned at the sight of Zhu Yi. The person that he knew had always been calm and rational. Yet now he stood motionless, grey empty eyes staring at nothingness. Lin Feng sensed suppressed anxiety.

"You are confused." blatantly said Lin Feng as he approached Zhu Yi.

Zhu Yi returned from his daze and uttered a word of "master". His mouth remaining agape as though he wanted to say something, yet the words never materialized. He ceremoniously lowered his head, not knowing what to say.

"Is it concerning your mother?" sought Lin Feng.

Zhu Yi's eyes widened, his lips pursed together in silence.

"To trouble you this much, if it isn't your father Xuanji marquis Zhu Hongwu, then it has to be the one who perished a tad too early, Meng Bingyun" thought Lin Feng. Apart from his unbreakable resolve, the one thing that Zhu Yi really wanted was to fight for justice for his mistreated mother.

Zhu Yi let out a sigh of despair, "you are right, my mother's making me really, really confused and conflicted."

Lin Feng thought, "sometimes, knowing more will do no good, in

fact, ignorance might just be bliss". Without a word from Zhu Yi, Lin Feng had already understood. Besides, Lin Feng's knowledge was beyond Zhu Yi.

"Your mother Meng Bingyun was from The Great Void Sect. She was the saint before Yan Mingyue, an All-Under-Heavens Strider. She was from the Conservative Party, and was a promising disciple." said Lin Feng.

Zhu Yi's eyes widened and he stared straight ahead.

Lin Feng explained the history between the Conservative and Advance parties. Zhu Yi's eyes darted around, reflecting the multitude of emotions within. Lin Feng's words only confirmed his suspicions.

"The present Great Void Sect is headed chiefly by the Conservative Party. Hence explaining it's quiet and mysterious aura, seen by many the most sacred group in this world. Before Pang Jie, the previous three consecutive All-Under-Heavens Striders were from the conservative side. But because of the misfortune befalling your mother and Yan Mingyue, the Advance Party seized the opportunity to groom and promote Pang Jie." Lin Feng explained.

"The Conservative Party could only concede. The Sect's reputation was under fire due to the accidents, and promoting Pang Jie was the best way to restore the sect to its former glory."

After careful consideration, Zhu Yi wondered aloud, "What

would the Great Void Sect do to appease the divine tribe's conflict regarding the mending of the real world?"

"To maximize benefit, The Great Void Sect had to oppress in order to fulfill its role in resolving the conflict."

Lin Feng smiled and replied, "How could they not oppress? It was just that the Conservative Party was much more subtle about it."

"There was much that happened below the surface. And such is the nature of our complex society."

"As to why your mother chose your father, even I do not have the answer, for only the two of them would know."

Zhu Yi uttered, "perhaps emperor Zhou Liang Pan would know. The Great Void Sect was after all against the Zhou Dynasty. I'd like to investigate further when I return to the city."

Lin Feng replied, "There definitely are reasons, but if your mother chose not to, not even Liang Pan himself could force her to marry."

"Your mother held her head up high. Your father was one of a kind, but he too, had feelings. Although to many, feelings aren't that important after all. We all have choices to make sometimes."

Zhu Yi nodded in agreement, thanking Lin Feng for untying the knot in his heart. No matter what happened after, he knew that his

mother gave his father nothing but happiness in their youth.

Zhu Yi left shortly after. As Lin Feng looked at his disappearing portfolio, his smile faded into seriousness. "Was Meng Bingyun really that simple?" he thought.

Lin Feng wondered, "She was no ordinary person, so how could she die at the hands of just any commoner? She was after all the All-Under-Heavens Strider, the representative of The Great Void Sect itself."

"Unless...she died willingly."

"Herein lies the question, would she have loved Zhu Hongwu that much that she sacrificed herself and die willingly at the hands of his physicians?"

At least after witnessing both Yan Mingyue and Pang Jie, Lin Feng could not believe that Meng Bingyun was that foolish.

Yan Mingyue, after attaining new life, waiting in hiding until Pang Jie stumbled before reappearing to claim her glory. It would be unbelievable to say that Yan Mingyue did not bait Pang Jie.

Conversely, after becoming Yan Mingyue's stepping stone, was it believable that Pang Jie utterly embarrassed himself outside Shazhou city? Besides, he sent an avatar instead of his actual being, showing that he somehow caught wind of Yan Mingyue's intent, and that he himself was plotting something behind the scene.

Exactly how much he stood to gain, only Pang Jie himself would know.

Clearly, Yan Mingyue was no pushover. Lin Feng decided that she still had a card or two up her sleeve, but whether the card resided in The Great Void Sect was a mystery.

He gazed upon where Zhu Yi's silhouette had disappeared into and wondered, "could it possibly be there?" and smiled to himself, shaking his head.

Lin Feng exited the cave and sat on the tree outside, giving his clothes a gentle shake and producing a cloud of purple smoke. Inside the smoke was a scene of an empty plot of land, void of anything except a sapling. It was a sapling from the Saros Steel Tree. This tree was extremely selective when it came to where its roots grew, and Lin Feng was very careful about it. Growing in the presence of the Grand Sun Primordial Flame and Grand Moon Primordial Waters greatly nourished its roots.

Lin Feng smiled as he uprooted the sapling, "Sorry, but I can't let you grow all by yourself. I never intended to keep a tree spirit."

Lin Feng did not require even a guardian like that of the Great Thunderclap Temple, for he already possessed the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree. Of course, he had to channel energy to the tree if he really wanted to drive out intruders. It wasn't that the Treasure Tree couldn't care less about the worldly happenings, but it really would not be bothered by anything that was not threatening to itself.

The real purpose of digging out the sapling was to grow an avatar for himself.

Because of the enmity with the Flaming Dragon Celestial Armour, the Avatar of Ares was embroiled within the tension and could not leave. Once it left, the armour would create a spirit of its own and that was not what Lin Feng had hoped for.

If the Avatar of Ares was unavailable, Lin Feng wanted to have another avatar by his side, and hence this alternative. With its all-rounded abilities, it was indeed the perfect choice, though its potential was not yet fulfilled.

Lin Feng injected his Psychic Sense into the Saros Steel Tree, albeit with some difficulty. It was still not yet fully developed, so Lin Feng could still force his way in. The inside of the tree was a complete darkness, only a faint light flickered in the distance. Lin Feng headed towards the light, and slowly the darkness faded away. The light that emanated was bright but not burning, it shone but did not split.

Lin Feng immediately recalled the Celestial Jade Tree and thought of the endless possibilities that was hidden within. It was very different from what he faced now. The Saros Steel Tree only had one aura, yet its presence was overwhelming.

Perhaps, the four celestial trees were more intricately linked than what he had thought.

Chapter 267: The Flowers of the Steel Tree Blossom

Lin Feng bathed himself in the presence of the Saros Steel Tree and thought, "legend has it that whoever immerses himself among the tree spirits reaches the pinnacle of spiritual development, attaining longevity and wisdom like no other".

"The Divine Parasol Tree is home to the phoenixes and carries with it the secrets to everlasting life. Despite their being just trees, they surely possess some extraordinary prowess"

"If only I could see these two divine trees one day" sighed Lin Feng.

Deep in thought, he stretched out a finger and tapped on the Saros Steel Tree.

Thick purple smoke entered the tree, its black branches and golden leaves rustling at the sensation.

The stubborn yet sturdy tree and its iron-like branches, having no self-consciousness notwithstanding, clearly was not receptive towards Lin Feng's energies.

Lin Feng was not anxious, and slowly caressed the tree with his aura.

He did not counter the hostility with more pressure, but embraced it by letting his energy get used to the tree's presence, swallowing it whole.

The led the tree to look at Lin Feng as an ally of the same kind, hastening the improvement.

On the outside, nothing had seemed to change, except for the vibration and oscillation of the branches and leaves. Inside the tree, the world had already begun its paradigm shift. Its xylems formed like that of arteries, and phloems like that of veins. In the centre of the tree, a growth formed in the image of a beating heart.

After the internal changes were complete, soft light emanated from the tree branches like millions of fireflies, glowing in rhythm as though convening with the stars. But these were no stars. These were spots that corresponded to the atoms beneath Lin Feng's skin, glowing in similar fashion.

If one stretched one's imagination, it was possible to see the Saros Steel Tree as a replica of Lin Feng. Their physical outlook was beginning to look alike, and the spots that glowed were a mirror of each other.

All the light were manifestations of a human's veins, organs, muscles and tendons. Secret caves which housed limitless capabilities. In fact, after a certain stage of training, any more effort spent was on improving one's internal being. It could be said that a human body was a universe on its own. Much of its potential remained dormant until one ventured far enough below the surface.

The secret to Xiao Budian's strength lay in him awakening his dormant potential. Likewise, Lin Feng's Avatar of Ares was strong because he unlocked all of his hidden potential and utilised them to the fullest. During Lin Feng's Aurous Core Stage, Avatar of Ares' strength mirrored that of Lin Feng's full potential, and not even Bastille Black Dragon was his match.

Even when Lin Feng entered the Nascent Soul Stage, the Avatar of Ares continued to match his strength's newfound full potential. It was agreed upon that in terms of power, the avatar was weaker in magic but way stronger than Lin Feng physically was.

Lin Feng was certain that if he crossed swords with Pang Jie without his Six Appearance Sword, his Avatar of Ares would completely obliterate Pang Jie.

Once the Saros Steel Tree's xylems and phloems formed completely, its branches fell immediately, shaking violently. Lin Feng's Godly Awareness immersed itself in the tree's brilliance, and the two became one.

Moments later, the leaves and branches twitched. And millions of white flowers bloomed, encompassing the entire tree like snow covering an empty field. Based on what Lin Feng knew, the tree would only produce flowers three times during its entire lifespan. Once, when it gained self-awareness. The second, when it bore fruit. The last, when it withered.

This was the first milestone for the Saros Steel Tree.

Notwithstanding being a young tree, its flowers bloomed in a magnificent grandeur that was unparalleled.

Lin Feng gazed upon his almost accomplished work and smiled. Immediately, the tree formed into the shape of a human being and smiled back, imitating Lin Feng's expressions exactly. With a moment's hesitation, the tree-human transformed into a completely different looking person. Now, a young man. He was not particularly outstanding, his features ordinary and his skin a common brown, yet he was full of life and zest. A disposition that made him uniquely beautiful.

"I believe I can be known as the Steel Tree Avatar" grinned the youth.

At the sight of Lin Feng's smile, the Steel Tree Avatar looked into his heart.

"I think you might be more suited for the Martial Way of the Muscular Body. Two consecutive avatars training in the same way might just be a sign..but there's still something different between you and the Avatar of Ares." said Lin Feng.

"Oh? Have Xiao Budian and the rest returned?" thought Lin Feng.

Suddenly, the realisation hit him that he had spent over ten days building the Steel Tree Avatar.

"Master! Come and take a look!" shouted Xiao Budian excitedly as

he returned to Mount Yujing.

In his hand was a bunch of golden silk.

Lin Feng was taken aback at the sight of it, but he gathered what happened and asked, "where's this from?"

"Oh! It's from the time when we were looking for the Avici Infernal Gale! It can resist the gale, and both happened to be at the same place at the same time! What a steal!" replied Xiao Budian.

"This thing piqued my interest more, so I left the Avici Infernal Gale to sister Yue Hongyan" continued Xiao Budian.

"That's right, Tian Hao and I used the Green Bronze Crucible of Emptiness to drain and subdue much of it" added Yue Hongyan.

Despite being the youngest disciple, Xiao Budian was often addressed using his given name by Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing. They treated him more as a friend than a junior. Xiao Budian greatly welcomed their gestures, and it was evident that they were very tight as a group.

Lin Feng looked at Tuntun and casually asked, "aren't you excited?".

Tuntun nonchalantly answered, "It isn't up to my standard. It doesn't taste particularly good, and I've got better choices."

Lin Feng mockingly replied, "So did you finish all the red storks?"

Tuntun replied, "It wasn't enough. We should've caught all the birds from Xingyun peak."

Lin Feng cast his gaze on Jieyu and gave him a verbal pat on the back, "must've been tough".

The compliment served as encouragement, and Jieyu instantly felt a great load lifted off his shoulders. Before departing he had already knew that his role in the mission was as a security escort, and therefore he did not give much thought to the Avici Infernal Gale.

Lin Feng looked at Xiao Budian and explained, "This is actually leather. Skin peeled off the body of a demon which was already in immortal stage."

"It might look like silk, but there's no doubt in it being leather, it sure has demon properties. Look closely and you might be able to see some inscriptions within. Give it some heart, and you might just learn something out of it" continued Lin Feng.

"Chap's pretty lucky" thought Lin Feng as he scanned the group once more, this time noticing Zhuge Fengling standing at the back. Her expression seemed to hide a tinge of misfortune and jealousy behind the smile. She must have had a hard time dealing with Xiao Budian. Even her Gold-digging Mouse was not at its usual spot.

"Master, I'm lucky to not have embarrassed myself" added Zhuge Fengling.

"You did great. Now where's that mouse of yours? Don't tell me the other two had it for a meal." replied Lin Feng.

Xiao Budian snickered as he raised his arms in the air, holding up a little golden mouse.

Zhuge Fengling anxiously muttered, "this mouse is my only and most beloved pet, would master and senior kindly return it"

"What do you think of it?" exclaimed Lin Feng as he looked at Xiao Budian.

"Hmm...pretty interesting, I think we'll leave those two on the mountain" replied Xiao Budian.

"Then I'll leave them to you" replied Lin Feng.

Zhuge Fengling blacked out upon hearing their conversation.

Ignoring a dejected Zhuge Fengling, Lin Feng's thoughts wandered back to its own system tone, "Is it time for the new cycle of the monthly lucky draw? Or has it already been drawn?"

"It's adding the time spent in the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World"

It was only the sixth month in the real world, but Lin Feng had given some time to protect Wang Lin in the Heaven Cosmic Ray World before he shifted the timeline. Previously in an earlier stage, the eight years that Lin Feng spent in that alternate reality was clocked as eight full years instead of the equivalent of one month in the real world.

"Now the system follows the time experienced by my body and not the time of the real world"

Lin Feng was not one to miss out on a lucky draw. He scanned the prizes from the roulettes and dice, and immediately locked onto the die.

"Are my eyes deceiving me?" thought Lin Feng.

"I must be mad"

He stared hard at the fifth box. Inside it was a piece of rock that sat silently in place. He knew it was no ordinary rock. At once, he recognized the Magic Treasure Embryo.

Chapter 268: Good News and Bad News

To Lin Feng, among the two pieces of information he obtained, one was good news while the other was bad news.

The good part was that the lucky draw got really lucky - giving a Magic Treasure Embryo.

The Soul Creator Seal had molded countless lives, its life force was so pervasive it could rival that of the Divine Parasol Tree.

After going through two upgrades, Lin Feng started observing a pattern for the lucky draw prizes.

The quality of the prize had a correlation to Lin Feng's power or the level of the lucky draw system itself.

When Lin Feng first received the system, the prizes were relatively basic, starting from those which could be used in the Qi Cultivation Stage, to those which could be used in the Foundation Establishment Stage.

When Lin Feng transcended the Foundation Establishment Stage, the system received its first upgrade. The most basic of prizes were those related to the Foundation Establishment Stage. At the same time, its upper limit was bound by the Aurous Core Stage.

The only way to break through the limit was to wager the lottery system's prizes for those of the exchange system. Even so, the

exchange system's winning probability was really trash.

After Lin Feng's soul formation, the lottery system underwent its second upgrade. This time, the prizes were correspondingly better, such as the Dragon Tendon Rope.

Evidently, the present lottery system was far better than before. The prizes it churned out could be used in the Nascent Soul Stage, even the lousiest items were never too far off.

The upper limit was currently unknown, but it occasionally gave items such as the Bronze Heaven Hammer and Soul Creator Seal, legendary items in their own right that could stand along side the immortal gods.

Lin Feng postulated that the system had not reached the level of the immortal gods, and items like the Soul Creator Seal was nearing the asymptote.

In order to obtain even better items, the system had to go through another round of upgrades. However, Lin Feng was contented with what he had.

At the same time, while this was good news, there was still bad news.

Lin Feng looked at the die in the dice system and could not decide whether to smile or cry.

"It would be perfect if the prizes came from the roulette system instead. This die system is a test of character. I hate to leave things to chance." muttered Lin Feng in his head.

In fact the roulette was an equal test of character. The idea of one-in-four and one-in-sixteen did not exist in a single notion. Without hesitation, Lin Feng placed his bets in the die system.

"Thank god for not placing the Soul Creator Seal in number one and two, it would really have been trying for me" thought Lin Feng as he eyed the three rolling die.

The number five was a really lousy number, it was neither particularly high nor low.

For instance, if the first dice showed a four, five or six, it would be a tragedy and there was no need to look at the subsequent die at all.

The first dice came to a anticipated stop after a seemingly long wait. Lin Feng nervously looked at the first one. A big red dot stared right at him.

He heaved a sigh of relief. A little hope.

The second was stopped shortly after. Number two.

He could feel the blood rushing through his body, his face, his head. All it took was for the third dice to land on a two. It brought

his hopes up. But the higher you climb, the harder you fall. And it was instances like such when disappointment really hit one in the gut.

After what felt like eternity, the final dice came to its stop.

Number two!

A total of five points would give Lin Feng the Soul Creator Seal. He stepped out of the machine in excitement, staring at the object in his palm - a light gray rock that measured an inch by three. Lin Feng smiled in delight.

"Even the roulette does not necessarily give me what I want, less I talk about the die. Hah! I'm in luck today!" commented Lin Feng, as he dearly glanced at the rock.

It was a plain, gray rock. One without any cracks, scratches or imperfections, one that looked a little too perfect to be dull. From within seemed to emanate a purplish glow.

From its appearances, the rock looked plain and ordinary. It would fit in with the many pebbles in the vicinity. Its power and presence could not even be felt. One would never have guessed that the rock was a prize worth sacrificing for, let alone believe that pugilists all over the world have fought for its possession.

However, the moment Lin Feng's consciousness peered into the rock, he immediately felt its immense life force and pressure, as

though it harboured an entire universe inside it.

It was no ordinary life force. It was one that resembled genesis, the ability to start life and the universe from scratch.

As Lin Feng held the rock, he thought to himself, "What a pity that the rock can't be harnessed as a magic treasure at this moment. Who knows the limits to its power?"

The creation of a magic treasure was no easy feat. Even with the power of the immortal gods, there was no guarantee.

The creation of the Flaming Dragon Celestial Armour was already beyond complicated. Lin Feng had used ingenious means to combine the power of the Zhuyan Demon Eye, Refined Mana Black Scales, Dragon Tendon Rope and other materials that originated from the Immemorial Celestial Dragon together with the leaves of the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree as a medium.

Strictly speaking, if Lin Feng wanted, he could still split the materials and return them to their original states, so technically the armour was not yet a full-fledged magic treasure, just a mock or a combination that harnessed a power of equivalent level.

The Soul Creator Seal was different. Lin Feng could not combine it with other materials to yield a new item.

"I'd better put it away for now" said Lin Feng as his lips formed a slight pout.

Turning back, he saw Zhuge Fengling inching towards Xiao Budian.

"My dear senior, how about returning me my little goldie?"

Xiao Budian rolled his eyes. "Firstly, don't call me senior. I am not your senior. Secondly, this little mouse has been rather entertaining, so what say you lend it to me for a few days and I'll return it to you when I'm done."

Zhuge Fengling tightly gritted her teeth. The word "senior" did not necessarily mean that one was older or really more experienced, it was rather a word of formality and under this circumstance, it was used out of respect from the seeker to the giver.

"Comrade...I have blood relations with this precious mouse, our lives are deeply intertwined..."continued Zhuge Fengling.

"I know. But it's not as if I was going to eat it, so don't you worry" replied Xiao Budian.

"Not sure how it tastes like. But after skinning and gutting, it'll only be left with maybe two or three grams of meat at most".

Being looked at like delicacy by Xiao Budian, the gold-digging mouse shrunk in its place, its tiny ears folded backward in fear and blurted "yeah, not enough to fill the gaps between your teeth. I

don't even taste good".

Xiao Budian dangled the mouse by its tail, "I must say it has a thing for searching for items. Just lend it to me for a couple of days".

Zhuge Fengling forced out a toothless smile, one that turned out contorted and unnatural.

"Fengling, let's just stay for now" gold-digging mouse telepathically said to Zhuge Fengling.

"You brat! Just a few pieces of meat and you're bought over?" retaliated Zhuge Fengling.

"No! No! How can you say such a thing!" replied the mouse, albeit with a tinge of guilt. But it was true that over the past ten days or so, the group had shared countless delicacies together.

"The Leader of the celestial sect of wonders is apparently very generous, especially to his followers." continued the mouse.

"Those at the Aurous Core Stage already have Nascent Soul Stage protection, and those at the Foundation Establishment Stage already have Aurous Core Stage protection. He even went to support his first disciple who threw a high stake gamble." said the mouse.

Zhuge Fengling fell silent for a moment. Seizing the opportunity,

the gold-digging mouse added, "There're so many benefits! Think about it, what can you gain if you join this sect!"

"What's more, if anyone irks you or gets in your way, you just have to tell him and he'll settle it for you. You don't even have to break a sweat. What a deal!" continued the mouse.

Zhuge Fengling's eyes lit up after hearing the mouse. Gold-digging mouse already knew what she had in mind, and thus it twisted and played with words to get what it wanted.

"However," the mouse said.

"You have to hold on tight. Your spot as a disciple hasn't been confirmed yet so you'd better act in line"

Zhuge Fengling replied, "Oh it's fine. I guess you'll just stay for awhile"

"As long as we don't lose out, what's wrong with being a follower?"

Zhuge Fengling's attitude took a complete turn. "There's nothing wrong with it at all, as long as we stand to gain. Besides, there's still room for promotion"

"Hmph. Just like you brat. Since when were we equals."

Gold-digging mouse smiled quietly.

Zhuge Fengling's sudden silence and calm demeanour piqued Lin Feng's curiosity. He did not mind, as long as there was Xiao Budian to supervise, she would not stir too much trouble.

Lin Feng's attention turned to Yue Hongyan. "The heavens were on our side I get it. But how exactly did you subdue the Avici Infernal Gale?"

Chapter 269: The Bracelet and the Grasshopper

Once he was done with the lottery, Lin Feng's attention diverted to the things that he had once neglected.

When he first heard that it was Yue Hongyan who had subdued the Avici Infernal Gale, he did not give much thought to it. After all, luck was often on her side.

But upon further deliberation, he felt something amiss.

Even with Xiao Budian's help, it was not practical for Yue Hongyan, who was still in the Foundation Establishment Stage, to subdue the Avici Infernal Gale. Question is, how on earth did she manage to bring it back?

According to his sources, the gale was not kept in Xiao Budian's Green Bronze Crucible of emptiness, but held on to by Yue Hongyan.

Previously on Mount Kunlun, when Gao Fan of the Aeolus sect tried to subdue the Grand Moon Primordial Water, he had no choice but to borrow the Great Furnace of the Commons. Even then, one wrong step landed him in utter defeat.

Subsequently when Yang Qing managed to subdue it, credit had to be given to Gao Fan for laying the foundations of subduing it the first time.

Notwithstanding the fact that Yue Hongyan had already surpassed Gao Fan, the truth of the matter was that the Avici Infernal Gale was many times more aggressive than the Grand Moon Primordial Water. Lin Feng simply could not fathom how Yue Hongyan could accomplish such an incredible feat.

Yue Hongyan fell silent at Lin Feng's inquisition and handed him a crimson bracelet.

He inspected it for a while, then tested it out with his spiritual power. To his amazement, the bracelet contained countless number of Avici Infernal Gales!

Upon further observation, Lin Feng concluded that it was no magic treasure or item, neither did it contain any special power of sorts.

The capacity to contain the Avici Infernal Gale came solely from the bracelet's material.

Xiao Budian interrupted, "Senior's bracelet was initially a clear, smooth white. It only turned pink after she subdued and contained the Gale".

At this juncture, Lin Feng recalled seeing a similar stone in the exchange system, it was the Empty Jade.

The trademark of the Empty Jade was that it had seemingly

infinite capacity, and whatever was stored inside could not escape on its own.

However, from the outside, the bracelet was a brittle object that would shatter on excessive impact.

In other words, Yue Hongyan could not have forced the Gale into the bracelet from the outside.

But if Xiao Budian already did his part, she could possibly place the immobilized Gale into the bracelet and seal them inside.

The bracelet was unlike the Taotie's self-engulfing theurgy which could actively engulf objects. It could only do so passively with the help of another party, in other words, the third party had to place the immobilized objects inside the bracelet and seal it up. What's inside would then be stuck inside.

Of course, the bracelets had its own limits as well.

It could not contain life. But being so made it the perfect storage bag. Spacious and secure.

The only downside was that such material was very scarce. Empty Jades the size of nails were already considered rare, this one was the size of a bracelet and was estimated to be worth more than its weight in gold.

Lin Feng had also noticed that, after being in possession of the

bracelet, Yue Hongyan did not seem to be in high spirits. Her red eyes reflected a complexity of anger, hatred and loss.

"These emotions are clearly not directed at her late senior. It appears that she got the bracelet from Zhanglie" sighed Lin Feng.

In spite of all the hatred, anguish and fury that Yue Hongyan harboured, deep down inside her was a special place reserved for Zhanglie.

Or it could be because of the relationship they had in the past, which once ended, caused her to be filled with so many emotions.

Lin Feng casually stated, "This bracelet's material is rare and special, it is Empty Jade which can contain a multitude of items. Hongyan, do use it wisely as you please"

Yue Hongyan jolted. What Lin Feng was trying to tell her was that the object itself had no autonomy, what she ultimately felt or decided to feel was solely up to her control.

She pursed her lips and fell silent.

One glance was all it took for Lin Feng to see through her. But such things could not be forced upon, what she needed was a little guidance from time to time before she could control herself and the Avici Infernal Gale.

Gradually, Yue Hongyan found her inner peace.

As everyone, including Xiao Budian and Tuntun, dispersed, Yue Hongyan made her way towards the Medicine mountains.

Even though Lin Feng stood in his place, his consciousness followed Yue Hongyan to the mountains, stopping at the entrance. Her attention turned to Yang Qing who was intently harvesting herbs.

Yue Hongyan's expression softened, her eyes revealing what seemed like guilt.

Looking at the scene, Lin Feng carefully mentioned to Yue Hongyan, "before we jump to conclusions, it's better not to mention anything to Yang Qing. And don't bear the burden by yourself."

Although Lin Feng was confident that the Cloud Water Cave incident had to do with Zhanglie, he felt that it was better for everyone not to jump to unnecessary conclusions.

Yue Hongyan sighed and silently nodded her head.

At this juncture, the once focused Yang Qing felt the presence and turned around.

"Senior you're back?"

"I just arrived" Yue Hongyan replied.

"Master told me that you went out to look for the Avici Infernal Gale. How was it!" asked a curious Yang Qing.

Yue Hongyan smiled and replied, "The heavens were kind this time, I've gotten quite some back".

"Tha's great isn't it!" replied Yang Qing.

Facing his smile, Yue Hongyan felt slightly uneasy and her head tilted so slightly to the left, her gaze avoiding his, landing on the ground beside his feet. There, two handmade grasshoppers stood quietly, as if they were really alive.

"You still have such childish interests?" poked Yue Hongyan.

Yang Qing blushed and replied, "just for the fun of it."

Seeing his reddened face, Yue Hongyan decided not to pursue any further.

"My junior used to like these. Ah, it was back when i was still at Cloud Water Cave." said Yang Qing casually as he bent to pick up the grasshoppers.

Yang Qing sat on the ground and gazed at the direction of the Cloud Water Cave, "Back then my combat powers were really poor,

and i was often bullied by the others. The only person who didn't mind was this junior, and she would fight with the rest over me"

"She would teach me how to fight. And when we were not training, I would sit down and start folding leaves into origami like this. We sat there in silence, in each other's comfort." reminisced Yang Qing.

Yue Hongyan looked at Yang Qing and was reminded of her own past, her expression softened further, revealing a gentle smile.

In a flash, that tranquility vanished as her expression changed once again, revealing her hidden guilt.

"She...she..."stuttered Yue Hongyan.

She shook her head and continued, "The cave was burnt to ashes. When I went in to collect the corpses, many were already burned to the ground. Most of our friends were already gone."

"Funny now that I think of it. I erected a tombstone for everyone. Below some of them were empty patches of ground. I could not even find their bodies. If any of them happened to be alive, they'd jump at the sight of their own grave. I wouldn't be surprise if they gave me a beating...not that I would mind..."

Yang Qing uttered, "only for her I did not put a tombstone. Call it denial if you might, I just hope she's alright".

Lin Feng's consciousness lingered in the vicinity. He had been listening intently to the conversation. He felt a sudden tingling sensation. "I've always thought that Yang Qing was queer, seems like my hunch was right" thought Lin Feng.

"If so, what was the altar for?"

At this point, Lin Feng's consciousness had achieved equilibrium with Mount Yujing, the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree and the Heaven-Revolving Purple Clouds. He quietly sought out Yang Qing's physical presence.

Half a second later, Lin Feng came to a realisation. "So this is where his ninth root bone is hiding. Rather deep I must say."

Lin Feng thought of how Yang Qing's determination had a score of five and immediately thought, "I'd better wait for the iron to be hot". His teeth chattered in pain.

"Hmm?"

One of Lin Feng's voice-projecting crystals starting vibrating. Someone was trying to contact him.

He flipped the rock and heard the voice of Songfu from the Pavillion of Heavenly Trade, "Master Lin, sorry to intrude".

"No worries, what's the matter?" replied Lin Feng courteously.

"Men from the Qin Dynasty have entered Shazhou City as guides for Master Lin and your disciples to head towards Ancient Huanghai world for this time's Huanghai assembly. They haven't been able to locate you, so they have asked me to trouble you instead." replied Songfu.

"Do pardon my intrusion"

Chapter 270: The Strange Invitation List

"The Spiritual Conference of Huanghai?"

Lin Feng tilted his head. It had been twenty over days since Tan Yingjie brought the news on Xingyun Peak. He had also mentioned that the Ancient Huanghai World was set to be open in about a month's time.

The days flew past in a flash.

This was a good opportunity for Lin Feng's disciples to shine.

"It's been tough on you, Mr. Song", Lin Feng nodded and his robes waved in the air, letting out purple smoke. The smoke pierced through the air, arriving at Shazhou City, forming a pavement above the ground.

Out of nowhere, Song Fu stepped out of a slit above the ground. He politely faced the purple smoke and took a bow, "Pardon my intrusion, Master Lin".

Beside Song Fu stood a middle-aged man who levitated by Song Fu's magic. He too took a bow and the duo continued their way along the purple smoke path.

Without a single step taken, the purple smoke had already transported them to Mount Yujing. As the middle-aged man appeared in view, Lin Feng took one look at him, "It's got to be

him?"

The man was a familiar sight. Despite the long absence, Lin Feng remembered him from his pre-foundation establishment stage days, when he was still in the Great Swamp of the Ancient Regions on his mission.

It was the first time Lin Feng had met Kang Nanhua, Yue Hongyan and the man standing before him. Former captain of the Divine Martial Army, Dao Zhiqiang.

Back then, Lin Feng buried an entire battalion of Emperor Zhou's Divine Martial Troops using the Two Elements of Creation Formation. Dao Zhiqiang was fortunately deployed elsewhere and not caught in the disaster. After that incident, he the army and went to join the Qin Emperor instead.

Dao Zhiqiang was equally astounded. He did not expect the young man back then to be such a powerful character. The man that he saw not only changed in appearance - his white robes replaced by majestic purple - but his entire aura seemed completely foreign. He did not fully understand what was different, but he laughed in his heart "Such power I simply cannot fathom".

Dao Zhiqiang bowed ceremoniously, "Sir, my name is Dao Zhiqiang, I'm humbled to be in your presence, master"

Lin Feng returned the favour, "Sir, where are you putting up now?"

"I happen to work at Prime Minister Wu's"

"Oh?" Lin Feng thought to himself, "This man's quite something to work for the Qin emperor. Despite being in just the foundation establishment stage, the prime minister seems to trust this guy".

The person who sent the invitation to the Radiance Sword Sect, Tan Yingjie, was in the nascent soul stage. He had no idea who was to lead the guests from the above sect, but it was surely somebody of standard.

Under such circumstances, Wu Qingrou had sent a foundation establishment stage fighter to guide the Celestial Sect of Wonders. Normally, such an act would be seen as belittling, but being a prudent strategist, Wu Qingrou did not seem to harbor such ill intent.

Hence, there was only one explanation, and that was Dao Zhiqiang was a capable and highly-esteemed person notwithstanding his power.

Afterall, fighting prowess did not directly translate to a person's capability. Many tasks, especially the more menial ones, could not be depended on fighting power.

"Are you our guide, then?" asked Lin Feng.

"Yes sir, I'm your sect's guide for the Conference. Feel free to direct any questions to me." replied Dao Zhiqiang.

Song Fu, who was standing beside, laughed, "Master Lin, I've finished my mission here. I'll take my leave".

Lin Feng and Dao Zhiqiang said in unison, "Thank you for your efforts". Out of ceremony, Song Fu stood in his place, not moving to leave. Lin Feng opened a slit in space and motioned for him to go, before bidding him farewell.

He then turned back to Dao Zhiqiang, "Which other sects are invited to this Conference?"

"This I'm not too sure, I merely follow the orders of Prime Minister Wu"

Lin Feng looked straight in Dao Zhiqiang's eyes, "Old friend, why must you hide from me?"

Given Lin Feng's present status, the words 'old friend' implied a lot more, and it was rude to not answer.

"Radiance Sword Sect, Sun Moon Sword Sect, Royal House of the Northern Tribes and the Huo Family have all received the invitation." Dao Zhiqiang continued, "there should be more, but I'm really not too sure."

Lin Feng nodded in acknowledgment. Although his expression remained in place, his mind was already changing its gears. He had known about Radiance Sword Sect, but that was no matter.

Some of the leaders of the Radiance Sword and Sun Moon Sword Sect were part of the Nine Heavenly Sword Alliance. They were on better terms with the Qin emperor and were often seen as the emperor's spokesmen.

In fact, many of the Alliance's members were working under the emperor in some way. As such, Sun Moon Sword Sect's invitation came as no surprise.

It was the Royal House of the Northern Tribes that stood out. "Was the Qin Emperor perhaps having issues with the Zhou emperor?" wondered Lin Feng.

The Royal House of the Northern Tribes lay north to both the Qin and Zhou empire. Despite being weaker in power than either empires, they were still a force to be reckoned with in the Divine Lands.

Their strength was comparable to the Heavenly Master Sword Sect, and definitely stronger than the Radiance Sword Sect and the Aeolus Sect. Qin's invitation to the Royal House of the Northern Tribes was without question a sign of diplomacy and friendship. The north was after all a neutral ground in the battle between Qin and Zhou.

As for the Huo Family, they were one of the four nobility within the Qin empire, and have been major players for a long time. But their invitation piqued Lin Feng's interest even more.

Among the four noble families, the Huos were especially tight with the emperor's family. However, they were loggerheads with the other two, the Yu and Shi family, who amongst themselves had marital ties.

As like the emperor's little brother, the Huos was drastically different from the Sun Moon Sword Sect. Their take towards the Nine Heavenly Sword Alliance was also much more aggressive.

"From atop Xingyun Peak, Wu Qingrou and Shi Chongyun had already settled their differences. By right, the prime minister should be trying to buy over the Shi family" thought Lin Feng. "But evidently the Shi family isn't benefiting from this, how unlike the prime minister".

Lin Feng suddenly turned to Dao Zhiqiang, "apart from the Huo family, have the other three been invited?"

Dao Zhiqiang fell silent for a moment, "from what I know, they haven't".

Lin Feng kept quiet and thought to himself, "there might be three possibilities. Firstly, the emperor is putting pressure on Wu Qingrou. After all, the emperor ultimately calls the shots"

"Second possibility is that Wu Qingrou is making up to the other three families somewhere else"

"The third...I don't even dare think of the third"

Lin Feng turned to Dao Zhiqiang once again, "When is the opening of the Conference?"

"Seven days from now" came the reply from Dao Zhiqiang.

"Why don't you put up at Mount Yujing for now. We'll leave together nearing the date".

Settling Dao Zhiqiang in Mount Yujing was easy. His every move would be within Lin Feng's radar. It was the Conference that Lin Feng had little control over.

Lin Feng's disciples all agreed that everyone but Zhuyi should go, as Zhuyi held the responsibility of training new disciples. This task could be left to no one but him. Being able to fight and being able to teach was two separate matters.

"We still need Zhuyi there. He's a lucky charm. Besides, since Xiao Yan is not attending, Xiao Budian would be the only disciple in the Aurous Core Stage. He might be strong, but he is after all only one man"

Lin Feng had heard about the fighting rules at the Conference. Those below nascent soul stage were all fighting together, but the foundation establishment and aurous core stage fighters were segregated.

The fighters in the Qi Cultivation stage required a mentor to

accompany them, so they were not a worry.

After listening to the recent turn of events, Zhuyi pondered for a while and replied "I think it'll be interesting to visit Ancient Huanghai World for a change. Don't worry about the newcomers, I'll give them homework to finish during my absence".

"Besides, we have Mr. Kang and Mr. Miao around to guide them"

As Nascent Soul Stage warriors were normally not allowed to Ancient Huanghai World, the fact that Lin Feng was leading the team meant that Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao had to stay back at Mount Yujing.

After returning to the mountain, Lin Feng had not seen Miao Shihao. Although nobody mentioned anything, Lin Feng knew that he was training in solace.

"Speaking of Shihao, how's his progress?" asked Lin Feng.

His gaze suddenly turned to the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree.

Chapter 271: To the Convention!

Earlier, in the sect-opening ceremony battling in Shazhou City, Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao both contributed to the sect through their valiance. Hence, Lin Feng rewarded them by allowing them to enter the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World for a day.

Miao Shihao decided to use this reward and enter the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World to do some closed-door training.

Lin Feng knew that he wished to take advantage of this and break through his bottleneck, rising to the middle phase of the Nascent Soul stage in one go.

After obtaining Lin Feng's One Heavenly Primordial Water, Miao Shihao not only perfected his Canglang Water Technique but he also managed to achieve a breakthrough in his Illusion Charm. After the battle experience from Shazhou City, Miao Shihao was right at the doorsteps of the middle phase of the Nascent Soul stage.

Hence, Miao Shihao successfully achieved a breakthrough after his closed-door training this time.

A gust of Nine Heavens Clear Air wafted through the infinite space and entered directly into the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World. In there, Miao Shihao sat quietly on a branch on the small Black Heavenly Treasure Tree. His forehead opened and the Nine Heavens Clear Air went inside.

Lin Feng could see clearly that a shadow appeared on Miao Shihao's forehead. It was a beautiful young boy, who appeared only to be between three to four years old. With the help of the clear air, one could see him growing rapidly.

In only a short while, the boy grew to around seven to eight years old. He increasingly resembled Miao Shihao.

Eh?" Lin Feng's eyes shrunk slowly as he realized that on top of the boy's forehead was a map that looked like a full moon, emitting a gentle golden glow.

As Miao Shihao's Nascent Soul grew, the map of the full moon changed constantly. From a full moon it became a half-moon, and then a crescent. Finally, it could almost not be seen. In the next instant, it appeared again and reverted to its original shape as a full moon.

The waxing and waning of the moon would never stop.

Lin Feng arched his eyebrows as he thought, "The Illusion Charm is only a spell he uses. Could the waxing and waning of the moon be his actual powers?"

In that moment, Miao Shihao finally ended his training. The Nascent Soul slowly re-entered his head. He opened his eyes and coughed loudly and sharply.

He left the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World and saw Lin Feng and

Zhu Yi looking at him. Uncontrollably, he laughed coyly, "Hey, you're back my lord? Aiyah, to have kept you waiting here while I conduct my closed-door training really makes my heart beat with both fear and joy!"

Lin Feng's mouth twitched for a long while as he almost considered smashing his head with an earth-crumbling spell. Instead, he just said, "I don't have the time to wait for you."

Upon mentioning the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai, Miao Shihao became more serious as he nodded and said, "To both Nanhua and I, we believe that there's nothing much to worry about for the new disciples. You can bring Zhu Yi along."

He thought for a while before his face became more serious as he said, "Be careful of Wu Qingrou."

Lin Feng's eyes flashed as he said, "Oh? Why is that so?"

Miao Shihao twitched his lips and said, "I've heard this name before from sources within the Great Void Sect. However, the information was incomplete, and hence I cannot determine the relationship between him and the Great Void Sect."

"Regardless of his ties with the Great Void Sect, he is a very important target to them. I can't be sure but the information came from both sides, one of which was Pang Jie."

Lin Feng grunted in reply. After thinking about it for a while he

asked suddenly, "Shihao, since you are able to obtain sources from the Sect's Striders-On-Earth, how confident are you of obtaining information from the inside of Mount Baiyun?"

Miao Shihao nodded his head dejectedly and said, "That could be considered to be one of the most sacred places in the Divine Lands, I can't do anything about it."

"If you look at it seriously, other than the the losers from the Great Void Sect itself, the last time an external personnel entered Mount Baiyun was a few thousand years ago."

Lin Feng nodded and said nothing as Miao Shihao asked curiously, "Why did you mention it all of a sudden, master?"

"Yan Mingyue wants to return to Mount Baiyun. I believe that this will create quite the commotion." Lin Feng told Miao Shihao the reason honestly. "The Advancement Party and the Conservative Party within the Great Void Sect have their internal disagreements. I am curious about them."

Upon hearing that, Miao Shihao, brimming with schadenfreude, laughed, "Let the dogs bite each other."

His face changed suddenly as he looked at Lin Feng from a corner of his eyes and said unkindly, "Master, could it be that you have fallen for Yan Mingyue?"

Lin Feng stared at Miao Shihao in disgust. He did not even bother

with a reply.

Through trial-and-error, Lin Feng realized that casual talk with Miao Shihao, whose brain appeared damaged, must be kept to below three minutes.

Below three minutes, Miao Shihao could still maintain a semblance of decorum and everyone could talk happily. Above three minutes, the conversation would devolve into teasing. Under those circumstances, it would be better to ignore him.

To ignore someone as flamboyant and dramatic as Miao Shihao, Lin Feng flew into the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World. Inside, Yue Hongyan was cultivating quietly.

Using his mana, Lin Feng realized that Yue Hongyan had managed to properly cultivate her Avici Infernal Gale. Not only that, she even managed to break through the bottleneck of her spell and was attempting to surpass her current level and form a crucible. Her accomplishment was akin to one in the later phase of the Foundation Establishment stage.

When she first came to Mount Yujing, Yue Hongyan was in the middle phase of her Foundation Establishment stage. Now, after she had understood Lin Feng's Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams, her mastery and understanding increased dramatically.

During the battle against Wang Jiannan on Xingyun Peak, she managed to solidify her spell improvements with actual battle. She had already surpassed her bottleneck and was ready to form her

crucible.

After mastering the Avici Infernal Gale, she also managed to store more than enough mana.

Under these circumstances, it's natural to assume that it was only a matter of time before Yue Hongyan formed her crucible. By guarding her, Lin Feng was only implementing a protective measure.

With his psychic senses, Lin Feng was able to enter Yue Hongyan's aura sea. Inside, there sat a black nine-tiered spiritual crucible glowing with purple light and burning with flames.

On top of this Class 1 spiritual crucible, there were numerous gales of wind amidst the dancing light of the fire. Red light that appeared mysteriously fog-like danced and howled like the wind.

Within the red light was uncountable amounts of spirits and ghosts, all of whom were wailing non-stop. As these spirits and ghosts landed into the burning fire of Yue Hongyan's spiritual altar, they did not feel pain but instead smiled as if they had obtained some form of relief.

Some of them were at peace and smiling while others had tear-filled eyes and were emotional beyond belief.

Once these spirits landed into the blaze, the fire burned even brighter.

Lin Feng nodded silently. While Yue Hongyan had managed to subdue and control the Avici Infernal Gale, the power of the Avici Infernal Gale was not diminished. Instead, the countless spirits and ghosts trapped within it were liberated and no longer had to undergo the sufferings of Hell.

In the moment they transcended, the amount of mana and spiritual energy they had accumulated over their lifetimes were fed to her, allowing Yue Hongyan's mana to grow.

The red blaze on top of the black spiritual altar began to emit light as it slowly formed the silhouette of a spiritual crucible.

The blaze and the red wind were absorbed by the shadow of the crucible, allowing it to become even clearer until it finally materialized on top of Yue Hongyan's spiritual altar.

Within the crucible, the Avici Infernal Gale erupted constantly out of it. At its bottom, an infinite blaze still burns. Numerous runic symbols were carved on the side of the crucible which carried with them the secrets of the universe.

Yue Hongyan's tightly-shut eyes opened suddenly and one could see that within her bright-red pupils there were two flickering embers. She could telepathically control the Avici Infernal Gale, which was within her body, to exit her body and swirl around her lower-half.

In that instant, Yue Hongyan had formally managed to reach the

final stages of Foundation Establishment. With one last step, she would be in her Aurous Core stage.

Looking at Lin Feng, her face broke into a rare smile as she called out, "Master!"

Lin Feng looked at her nodded appreciatively, "Not bad, good job"

As he brought Yue Hongyan out of the Heavenly Cosmic Ray World, Lin Feng summoned his disciples to listen to his orders. Zhu Yi managed to settle the newly-initiated second-generation disciples.

Leaving only Kang Nanhua and Miao Shihao on the mountain, Lin Feng brought Xiao Budian, Zhu Yi, Wang Lin, Yue Hongyan, Yang Qing and Tun Tun, along with Zhuge Fengling and Dao Zhiqiang, and left Mount Yujing. Together, they headed towards the northern regions of the Great Qin Empire, where the entrance of the Ancient Huanghai World was located.

This time, other than Jieyu, the Kui Cow King too was brought along by Lin Feng to serve as his steed. The two Demonic Lords brought Lin Feng and his disciples eastwards in a grand procession.

"Everyone says one must be subtle, but those who act grandly are the kings," thought Lin Feng. "I wish to increase my prestige, and hence I have to resort to this method."

Soon, they arrived at the town of Yuzhou, one of the most

important northern cities of the Great Qin Empire. From there, travelling northwards would bring one to a place called the Sea of the Northern Wind. While it was called a 'sea', it was actually a lake. That was the entrance to the Ancient Huanghai World.

As he approached Yuzhou, Lin Feng's heart began to tremble as he stared towards Yuzhou City. While his opponent did not deliberately release his mana, he knew instinctively that such a terrible force could only be from a cultivator in his Immortal Soul stage.

His counterpart also felt Lin Feng's group approaching. A shadow flew into the sky above Yuzhou and said smiling, "I wonder who's here?"

The speaker was a Nascent Soul stage elder. While his face bore a smile, his body was like a knife that had just left its sheath. A killing intent that appeared hell-bent on wiping out all creations was evident.

Below his feet was a jet-black saber radiance, which twitched non-stop in the sky. It was like a streak of black lightning, brimming with power and unimaginably violent.

Looking at that, Lin Feng knew he had to tread carefully. "According to rumors, the Asura Mantra of the Huo Family is one of the few mantras where killing is a pre-requisite to obtaining enlightenment. The killing intent is so strong and in no way inferior to that of General Xie of the Divine Martial Army, whom I had met in the Great Swamp of the Ancient Regions."

"The Huo Family's ultimate move is the Asura Doomsday Blade. In comparison with Xie's Heaven-Defying Sword of Fatality, while one is sword-based and the other saber-based, they are the two most destructive ultimate moves in the whole of the Divine Lands."

The Nascent Soul stage elder's gaze stopped at Jieyu and the Kui Cow King. Looking at Jieyu, he smiled and asked, "Are you from the Celestial Sect of Wonders?"

Chapter 272: The Asura Holy Man, Huo Xiu

Amongst the four great families of Great Qin, the Huo Family cultivated the Asura Mantra which taught that enlightenment could only be achieved through killing. With their murderous and powerful ultimate move, the Asura Doomsday Balde, it was matched only by the Heaven-Defying Sword of Fatality of the Immemorial God-Slaying Sect.

Earlier on, Lin Feng had met General Xie in the Great Swamps of the Ancient Region and mastered lost techniques of the Immemorial God-Slaying Sect. However, General Xie was no more than an Aurous Core cultivator and could not be mentioned in the same sentence as the Nascent Soul stage elder that stood before him.

Facing the two Demonic Lords Jieyu and the Kui Cow King, his eyes brimmed with a monstrous glow. He appeared to be contemplating killing them, as his killing intent almost turned into action.

Jieyu and the Kui Cow King both growled in a low voice and revealed their displeasure.

The Huo Family's cultivation necessitated murder. If they did not control themselves, they would unleash a massacre and become the enemies of all under heaven.

The Immemorial God-Slaying Sect was destroyed like that.

The elders of the Huo Family learned their lesson and brought their entire family to the southern regions of the Great Qin Empire, where there are many dimensional splits from both the human world (the Divine Lands) and the demonic world (the Barren Expanses).

There, the stench of killing and blood ran high. Members of the Huo Family aimed their swords at demons to increase their mastery and hone their proficiency of the saber. The Great Qin Empire delighted in having the Huo Family as their subjects who defended the south for them.

Whenever the demons tried to retaliate against the Huo Family, the Great Qin Empire would render assistance to them.

For the past one thousand years, the Huo Family had killed thousands and thousands of demons and very few humans. Hence, they had a positive image among the locals there.

Now, looking at the two Demonic Lords Jieyu and the Kui Cow King, the Nascent Soul stage elder could feel his blood rushing to his head.

However, that was only for an instant. He regained his composure and said, smilingly, "Are you from the Celestial Sect of Wonders?"

Speaking like an old man, Jieyu spat out, "Yes, and are you from the Huo Family?"

"Correct," said the elder, still smiling. However, it was not a friendly smile. "The master of the Celestial Sect is truly lofty. He won't even attend the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai personally, but instead entrust his disciples to do it."

Xiao Budian suppressed a laugh. When the Huo Family elder looked over at him menacingly, brimming with killing intent, Xiao Budian did not appear to care. Instead, he looked back at him cheerfully.

"Eh? This kid is rather resolute," said the Huo Family elder, whose eyes had turned to slits. Then, he heard Xiao Budian chortled, "Open your eyes and look carefully. My master is right before you. Blame your terrible eyesight for this."

The Huo Family elder, upon hearing his words, was shocked. He swept through the entourage with his gaze again and finally, landed his gaze upon Lin Feng.

It was not because Lin Feng gave off an intimidating air. Instead, it was the opposite. Amongst everyone present, only Lin Feng did not give off even a hint of mana, which made it impossible for the elder to understand the depth of his mastery.

Looking at Lin Feng's position, which was central to everyone else's, it was evident that he could not be just an ordinary person with no cultivation.

However, as he could not see the depth of Lin Feng's mastery, the Huo Family elder finally reacted. His back sweated profusely.

He stood awkwardly at his original position. He did not know if he should leave or stay. After years of cultivation, his personality was hard like a steel saber. He was not used to showing humility nor saying words of apology. However, if he were to say anything hard-line, it would be akin to him courting death.

The Nascent Soul stage elder froze in that moment there, not knowing what to do.

"Get back here, stop embarrassing me in front of others."

At that moment, an ice cold voice came out from within Yuzhou City. The voice was not loud, but everyone present who heard it immediately felt a chill going down their spines.

The killing intent of the foe was heavy enough to dye the clouds blood-red.

Lin Feng said plainly, "Are you Huo Xiu? I am the master of the Celestial Sect of Wonder and I offer you my greetings"

With the appearance of his family's Immortal Soul stage grandmaster, the Huo Family elder sighed in relief. While he knew that he would be criticized for his handling of the situation, it was still better than the awkward position he was in. He bowed respectfully to Lin Feng and flew back to Yuzhou City.

A black gash suddenly opened in the sky as if someone had

slashed it with a saber.

A young man, who appeared only to be around 25 to 26, appeared before Lin Feng. His eyes were deep and his nose aquiline. His robes were black like ink and his face as icy-cold and expressionless. He looked at Lin Feng for a solid minute before opening his mouth and said, "Master Lin, it's a pleasure. I'm Huo Xiu."

Standing there, he was a god of death from Hell. After treading through countless mounds of corpses and seas of blood, his entire body was filled with an intense desire to kill and destroy everything.

Lin Feng looked at Huo Xiu. He knew that he was the current helmsman of the Huo Family who had achieved the Immortal Soul stage a thousand years ago and brought the Huo Family to the southern region of the Great Qin Empire to slay demons.

"The Asura Holy Man, I've heard your name for a long time," Lin Feng said plainly. Huo Xiu looked at him for another minute as the killing intent around him gradually faded. He nodded his head and said, "My humble name is not worth mentioning. Earlier on, my family member had offended you. I hope you don't take it to heart."

Upon hearing Huo Xiu apologizing for the elder, Lin Feng felt neither happy nor a sense of dignity. Instead, his heart grew cold as he thought, "Huo Xiu had surmounted the limitations of his Asura Mantra."

As killing intent infected one, one would obey blindly what the heart demanded and not be restrained by anything. He would do what he wanted to do.

Huo Xiu said calmly, "My family member and I will be staying in the city for a few days. Feel free to help yourself, Master Lin."

Saying that he disappeared into the sky without any more banter.

Looking at Huo Xiu's disappearing figure, Lin Feng was silent for a long while. Slowly, a smile crept over his face. "Huo Xiu... Interesting, I guess that you are almost going to surpass your current mastery."

As for the Huo Family members who were currently residing in Yuzhou City, Lin Feng did not care too much about them. He brought his entourage and landed in Yuzhou City.

Upon entering the city, Lin Feng felt a strange, suppressed killing intent. Some were strong while others were weak. The powerful ones appeared to be in their Nascent Soul stage while the weak ones were only in their Foundation Establishment stage. However, they all had a similarity: they were all suppressed, with much difficulty.

These people were like wild roses who had a rope thrown over their necks. They sought to break free at all times. However, while wild horses sought only to gallop on the open fields, these people wanted to unleash a massacre and reduce Yuzhou City into a river

of blood.

These people who loved to kill were no doubt members of the Huo Family. The only person who could control their killing intent was the grandmaster of the Huo Family, the Immortal Soul stage Huo Xiu.

"What a good move," mused Lin Feng. He had understood Huo Xiu's plan. Firstly, suppressing one's killing intent was good training for his disciples.

Ultimately, cultivators who cultivate were trying to understand and master their respective spells. It would be wrong if they were instead controlled by these spells.

Secondly, he was starving them like how a falconer would starve his pet falcon before a hunt to make it more ferocious. The disciples of the Huo Family whose killing intent were suppressed would be more powerful once they were set against other disciples in the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai. Their powers would be at 120%.

Dao Zhiqiang smiled bitterly at the side, "Actually, there were special orders and notices that advised the citizens of Yuzhou City to avoid going as much and seek refuge if possible. However, thanks to the Huo Family's decimation of demons, they made a good name for themselves. Now, the locals are no longer scared of these angels of death. Instead, they are viewed as heroes."

Lin Feng smiled, "This is perfectly plausible. Until one actually

encounters danger, one would always negate its severity."

Dao Zhiqiang was just about to say something, but his face changed.

Lin Feng followed his gaze and turned his head. He saw a group of people walking on the streets, clad entirely in white and giving an icy cold aura. However, the mana they emitted was extremely thick. Lin Feng concluded that the spell these people cultivated were definitely not ordinary.

Looking at Dao Zhiqiang, Lin Feng waited for a response. Evidently, Dao Zhiqiang knew about their origins.

"These people are the cultivators from the Heaven Lake Sect," said Dao Zhiqiang as he breathed in. He said slowly, "It appears that they've gotten the invitation too."

Lin Feng thought, "It appears that between Qin and Zhou, regardless of who moves first there will be major upheavals."

The Heaven Lake Sect resided amidst a lake in the snowy mountains, famously known amongst humans as the Northern Snow Fields. Their sect had been established for tens of thousands of years and could be said to be amongst the greatest sects in the northern continent.

While they could not compare against the Three Great Holy Grounds, they were in the same category as the Heavenly Master

Sword Sect and the Royal House of the Northern Tribes.

Speaking of which, as they both resided in the extreme cold of the north, both the Heaven Lake Sect and the Royal House of the Northern Tribes did not get along well.

Normally, whenever Qin and Zhou were in conflict, one side would seek an alliance with the Royal House of the Northern Tribes and the other would seek an alliance with the Heaven Lake Sect as balance.

This time, the Great Qin Empire sought to recruit both major players in the north to their side by offering incentives to them both.

The resources of the Ancient Huanghai World were a major draw. There were bound to be under-the-table deals and agreements between the Great Qin Empire and these two forces.

From this perspective, the next move made by the Great Qin Empire would be massive. It would either be an initiative by the previously weak Great Qin Empire to overthrow and destroy the Great Zhou Empire, or it would be that the Great Qin Empire had intelligence that the Great Zhou Empire was about to move against it, necessitating a pre-emptive strike.

"Regardless, it's a good thing for me," Lin Feng smiled and said. The more chaotic the scene, the better it would be for a new sect like the Celestial Sect of Wonders to rise.

A still pond and a metal plate would never show many changes. After vested interests had been divided up and claimed, it would be extremely difficult for a new power to rise.

Lin Feng walked alone to the city center of Yuzhou City and waited for the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai to begin.

Xiao Budian and the rest toured the city. After spending most of their time on Mount Yujing, a change of environment was welcome.

Wang Lin wanted to continue cultivating, but as he could withstand Xiao Budian's incessant demand he followed them too.

Walking on the streets and watching the passers-by, Wang Lin sighed. Before he began cultivating, he lived in a mountain village and the most bustling place he visited was the county-level town.

Earlier on, during the sect-opening ceremony at Shazhou, he spent all his mind thinking about receiving and welcoming new recruits and hence, did not get to visit Shazhou City. This time, walking in a city that was no less opulent than Shazhou, he felt out of place.

Opening his mind would help him better understanding his spells.

"Wang Lin?! Is that Wang Lin?"

As he walked, he heard someone calling out his name. He turned, shocked, and saw a person staring at him. The person looked familiar, but also foreign.

Chapter 273: An Unhappy Gathering

The speaker was a youth clad in gray. When Wang Lin looked at him, he recognized him as a brother of his tribe. Initially, they had both joined the Hengyue Faction. However, while the speaker was exceptionally talented and was accepted immediately by the master, Wang Lin himself had to threaten suicide before he was accepted.

After Pu Beizi of the Xuandao Sect overran the Hengyue Faction, many disciples of the Hengyue Faction transferred their loyalty to the Xuandao Sect, except for him.

Since then, the two of them had not met.

Afterwards, Wang Lin's life experienced a drastic change. He joined Lin Feng's sect and bade goodbye to his previous life.

Now, when Wang Lin met this person again, while he recognised who he was immediately he felt strangely distant from him as if they had been separated for a generation.

The gray-robed youth looked at Wang Lin as if he had called the wrong person. To him, Wang Lin appeared even more unfamiliar. While the two of them had been separated for only two years, Wang Lin's body had undergone a drastic transformation.

The incompetent, weak and skinny Wang Lin who was unable to be accepted by the Hengyue Faction earlier on and had only gained admission through threatening suicide had changed into a heroic

and mature young man.

What made him look twice was the powerful aura that cloaked Wang Lin's body, deeply shocking him.

Initially, Wang Lin, who had been the joke of the Hengyue Faction, was now a Foundation Establishment stage cultivator. On the other hand, he, who had been acknowledged as a genius by the Hengyue Faction, did not progress much beyond the Qi Training stage. Looking at this scene before him, the gray robed youth felt as if he was in a dream.

While his heart was extremely panicky, Wang Lin's determination and aspiration were already stable. He was not the least affected, as he said, "Wang Zhuo? Long time no see I hope you are doing fine."

Wang Zhuo, the gray robed youth, opened his mouth and was about to say something. However, the reality was so different from his expectations and he was so stunned by the scene before him that he could not utter a sound.

During the sect-opening ceremony at Shazhou, the disciples under Lin Feng were all well-known by everyone. Wang Zhuo had heard Wang Lin's name as he doubted if it was 'that' Wang Lin. Could it really be his brother?

He always thought it to be impossible, and so when reality was placed starkly before him it was like a slap.

"He was obviously a trash with no skills in cultivation, how could he become a Foundation Establishment stage cultivator in such a short time?" Wang Zhuo agonized in his heart. "Could it be that the Celestial Sect of Wonders is truly so powerful? Could it be that the master of the Celestial Sect of Wonders does actually possess the Midas' Touch?"

At that moment, a black-robed youth walked over and stared coldly at Wang Lin. He said nonchalantly, "Wang Zhuo, is this your brother Wang Lin whom you always mentioned?"

Wang Zhuo said, "Yes, 17th Master, he is my brother Wang Lin."

Wang Lin raised his head to look at the black-robed youth. It was like looking at a razor-sharp steel sword out of its sheath. He was brimming with killing intent.

"The disciple of the Huo Family?" Wang Lin understood immediately. The Huo Family is the strongest force in the southern region of the Great Qin Empire. All other sects must show them due respect, including the Xuandao Sect. No matter how strong Pu Beizi was, he still must behave in front of them.

After Wang Zhuo joined the Xuandao Sect and through some mysterious circumstances, he managed to obtain the admiration of the Huo Family. Right now, he should be an auxiliary disciple of the Huo Family.

This situation was pretty common for cultivator families like the Huo Family and the Yu Family. While maintaining the solidarity

between its core members, they would constantly attract other cultivators to join them as auxiliary disciples to create a strong auxiliary force.

With a strong trunk, the branches would flourish and absorb new blood to ensure the longevity of the family.

Looking at Wang Zhuo, Wang Lin shook his head. In his memories, his brother was such a carefree, proud and aspirational youth back then.

Now, he was under the boots of the Huo Family. His pride and dignity were all gone.

Joining the Huo Family could ensure that one obtain the resources and the guidance for cultivation that exceeded those provided by the Xuandao Sect. In comparison to the Hengyue Faction, it was definitely a few hundred times more. However, what one must sacrifice was one's sense of dignity and pride.

Only Wang Zhuo truly knew the cost-benefits of such an arrangement.

Looking at Wang Lin shaking his head, tears glistened in Wang Zhuo's eyes. He gradually clenched his fist and did not say anything.

However, the black-robed youth who was addressed as the '17th Master' by Wang Zhuo, Huo Chen, arched his eyebrows and smiled

coldly at Wang Lin, "Looking at your body now, you should be around middle age."

"Wang Zhuo said that the two of you had separated for not more than two years, which means that you could have undergone accelerated training in these two years in some holy abode." Huo Chen smiled and looked at him deviously. "After 10 years or maybe decades of training, you are no more than a Foundation Establishment stage cultivator."

"Everyone keeps saying that the disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders are prodigious. It appears not. Rumors are ultimately just rumors."

He released his mana in that instant. Immediately, the space within 10 meters of his body was enveloped by a powerful aura brimming with death and despair, making it hard for people to breathe. Ordinary people without cultivation would die upon coming into contact with this aura.

By releasing his mana, Huo Chen was showing off his cultivation, which was in the later stages of Foundation Establishment and probably about to build his crucible.

While Wang Lin could not tell the grade of his crucible, he could feel, from the power of the mana, that it should be of a high grade.

Huo Chen was actually only around 20 years old. Forming a crucible at that age was considered rare even amongst the Huo Family, which also explains his arrogance.

Wang Lin was the main target of Huo Chen's killing aura. However, he appeared to have felt nothing as he looked calmly back at Huo Chen.

Huo Chen's thick eyebrows furrowed as his cold smile grew. He was filled with experience in killing others and could tell that Wang Lin was not bearing the pain; he really did feel nothing. Even with that, Huo Chen's killing intent became even stronger.

"17, what's the matter?" A cold voice sounded suddenly. With it, a man who looked similar to Huo Chen appeared. He resembled Huo Chen closely, but his killing intent appeared even stronger than Huo Chen's.

Looking at this black-robed man, Wang Zhuo lowered his head and Huo Chen recalled his powers. He said respectfully, "Second Brother."

The only thing that could calm the bloodthirsty disciples of the Huo Family down was another even more powerful disciple of the Huo Family, attacking whom would mean a death sentence.

This black-robed young man was definitely someone who could make Huo Chen turn into an obedient little rabbit in an instant.

He was the Second Master of the Huo Family, Huo Ming.

Just by standing there and doing nothing without even releasing his killing aura, he could already make those in his surrounding

feel as if they had been submerged in a depressing, bloodthirsty Hell.

Wang Lin looked at Huo Ming and arched his eyebrows as he thought, "Aurous Core stage. Furthermore, he is in his late Aurous Core stage. Just a little bit more and he would be a Nascent Soul stage cultivator."

In cultivator families, due to longevity reasons, they may have children at vastly different ages. Brothers around the same age could already have grandchildren or still be single. As a result, there existed great disparities between brothers of the same generation.

Huo Ming, who stood before him, had undergone long periods of training in the Huo Family's holy abode. Hence, he was over 100 years old and much older than Huo Chen.

However, that was not the reason they were ranked number two or number seventeen. There were many brothers of the same generation as Huo Ming who were much older than him.

In the Huo Family, the ranking of brothers of the same generation was determined by martial prowess. The more powerful one was the higher his ranking.

Facing Huo Ming, Wang Lin could feel the pressure.

"Third Junior, did you meet someone from your past?"

A purple-robed scholar suddenly strolled slowly on-scene and stood next to Wang Lin. It was Zhu Yi.

Looking at Zhu Yi, Huo Ming's eyes shone as he released his killing aura. It burst from his body like a torrential flood.

In that instant, the entire Yuzhou City trembled.

However, Zhu Yi, who stood facing him, appeared impervious. He stood there like a faint gust of wind and smiled calmly, "A member of the Huo Family, eh? Why? Do you want to spar here?"

"If that's the case, then bring it," his voice was natural and peaceful as if he was talking to a random person. He appeared to have completely ignored the killing aura bursting from Huo Ming's body.

Huo Ming stared at Zhu Yi as his throat gurgled. He said coldly, "In your entire Celestial Sect of Wonders, I was only interested in your Big Senior Xiao Yan. Now, it appears that you too are worth the effort."

Zhu Yi frowned as he said calmly, "However, you aren't worth the effort to me."

Huo Ming, after hearing that, did not become angry. Instead, his killing aura became even stronger as he said, "Very good, I shall not even care about the restriction my grandmaster had set. I don't

care, I'll kill you and apologize to him later."

Huo Chen, who was next to him, smiled coldly too and said, "As the fish finds the other fish, the shrimp shall find the other shrimp. Since Second Brother has found his opponent, I shall play with the two of you."

Wang Lin's expressions did not change as he replied, "Alright, sure."

Who knew that Huo Chen smiled coldly and replied, "Do you think I'm talking about you? Heh, you aren't qualified. I am talking about the person behind you."

Wang Lin's expressions were calm as he knew that Yue Hongyan, who stood behind him, came to the scene together with Zhu Yi.

Yue Hongyan, with her blazing red pupils, after arriving on the scene, did not say anything. She maintained a respectful distance from Zhu Yi and Wang Lin as she decided to leave the matter to them.

However, with her fiery personality, she would not concede to anyone who sought trouble from her. She was furious like a storm and her mana, blazing hot like fire, burned from her body as it countered Huo Chen's killing aura.

Huo Chen's gaze was fixated on her. "The later phase of the Foundation Establishment stage? This girl is no more than 20?"

The two sides stared and faced each other as a big battle was about to commence. Suddenly, two voices sounded from the sky.

One of them was the cold voice of the Immortal Soul stage master of the Huo Family, Huo Xiu, which said, "Huo Ming, Huo Chen, get back here right now or I'll kill you both!"

The other voice was Lin Feng, who said calmly, "There will be a chance for you to fight during the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai."

Huo Ming and Huo Chen looked at each other with a look of regret appeared in both of their eyes. Huo Ming grunted in reply and flew towards the sky without saying anything.

"Your fellow disciples are already in the Aurous Core stage right? You, however, are still stuck in the Foundation Establishment stage." Before Huo Chen left, he turned his head to Wang Lin and said, "The b*tch next you, I heard that she joined after you. She too was already in the later phase of the Foundation Establishment stage. What's your stage now? Where's your progress after all these years?"

Amidst his wild laughter, Huo Chen walked off along with Wang Zhuo.

Zhu Yi and Yue Hongyan's face were solemn. Zhu Yi almost wanted to stop Huo Chen. How could a disciple of the Celestial Sect of Wonders suffer such a humiliation?

"Master already said that there'll be a chance during the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai." Wang Lin, however, stopped Zhu Yi. As he looked at Huo Chen departing, his gaze became increasingly cold.

Chapter 274: It's Hard to Repay Gratitude

While Lin Feng was not present, he too clearly heard how Huo Chen mocked right before he left.

His comments were: While you are not wrong, you will still die a horrible death.

Speaking from the heart, Huo Chen's mocking of Wang Lin was on point. No matter how calm Wang Lin was usually, he too would surely be incensed by this statement.

The disparity between him and Xiao Yan, Zhu Yi and Xiao Budian had long been a major headache for Wang Lin ever since he joined the sect.

Currently, amongst Lin Feng's six immediate disciples, other than Xiao Yan and the other two, Yue Hongyan was in the later stage of Foundation Establishment, Yang Qing too had established his spiritual altar and reached the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment stage. This made Wang Lin's position extremely awkward.

However, everyone within the Celestial Sect of Wonders knew that Wang Lin's actual battling ability was extremely strong. While Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing may have a higher level of mastery compared to him, if they were to really fight the winner would not be so easily determined.

However, the problem was that outsiders did not view it as such.

What they saw was that while Wang Lin was Lin Feng's third disciple, he possessed the lowest mastery.

Lin Feng shook his head and smiled, "Huo Chen, is it? You are sc*ewed!"

Under Lin Feng's guidance, Wang Lin maintained his cool at all times. He transformed the pressure on him into a source of motivation rather than envy towards his compatriots. However, the pressure was always there and needed a release.

At that moment, someone took the initiative to offer himself as Wang Lin's stress ball.

As for the late Aurous Core stage Huo Ming, while Wang Lin wanted to take revenge on him personally, he still had to wait a while. As for the late Foundation Establishment stage Huo Chen, it would be simpler.

"You little jerk, you better pray to all the gods and Buddhas that you are not matched with Wang Lin during the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai. If not, you would be beaten so badly until you own parents could not recognize you." Lin Feng said with a hint of schadenfreude. "For such a powerful person like Wang Lin, could you honestly expect to get away so simply after mocking him? Do you fear that you have too long to live? Even if you managed to avoid him during the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai, I would like to see you as Wang Lin's little test subject after he completed his training in the Ancient Huanghai World."

"It appears that there's hope for the Great Qin Empire to rein in this bunch of wild wolves, the Huo Family." The voice of an elder suddenly sounded.

Lin Feng turned his head and looked at the elder next to him who was clad in purple robes. He smiled briefly and said, "I am sorry that you have to see that, Blue Pavilion Holy Man."

The purple-robed old man smiled and shook his head. He had a jovial air about him, but no one would dare to underestimate him for he was a powerful cultivator in his Immortal Soul stage with a terrible ultimate move.

The Blue Pavilion Holy Man was one of the three holy men of the Purple Clouds Sect. In terms of rankings, the Blue Pavilion Holy man was the big disciple of the current master of the Zixia Sect, the Thunderclouds Holy Man. The Blue Pavilion Holy Man had achieved the Immortal Soul stage a few thousand years before him.

Today, while he was polite about his sudden visit, Lin Feng felt a bit curious as he could not understand his intentions.

The Purple Clouds Sect resided in the eastern regions of the Great Qin Empire. It was located at the intersection between the Great Qin Empire and the Great Zou Empire and was one of the top sects in the Divine Lands. Its power was between that of the Heaven Lake Sect and the Heavenly Master Sword Sect.

While it could not compare to the Three Great Holy Grounds of yore, it surpassed the Sun Moon Sword Sect and the Sword of

Radiance Sect.

Lin Feng only just knew that the Purple Clouds had been invited to the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai. He just heard from Dao Zhiqiang that the Blue Pavilion Holy Man sought to meet with Lin Feng and that he was the leader of the Purple Clouds Sect for this conference.

"The Purple Clouds Sect's powers are extraordinary and one ought to give the Heaven Lake Sect due respect." While Lin Feng had faith in Xiao Budian and the rest, Lin Feng took caution. "Do not fail because you let your guard down."

The Purple Cloud Sect claimed descent from the Omnipotent Thunder Lord from time immemorial. The grandmaster of the Purple Clouds Sect and its founder, the Purple Clouds Holy Man, was one of the direct disciples of the Thunder Lord, establishing its claims to the

Rumors had it that the spell the Thunder Lord cultivated was the most powerful thunder spell of all times, the Great Way of the Nine Heavens Divine Thunder.

There was a saying that the source of Creation was the sound of thunder. As the Thunder Lord's power could destroy the Chaos and create a universe, he thus earned his nickname.

As the Purple Clouds Sect inherited his thunder spells, it could honestly be said to be the best thunder sect in the Divine Land.

The Blue Pavilion Holy Man was one of its three great leaders. For him to request a meeting so suddenly while keeping a low profile, Lin Feng's curiosity was naturally piqued.

"I heard that one of your disciples cultivated the Infinite Thunderstorm spell. Truly powerful." Once one had reached the level of the Blue Pavilion Holy Man, there was no need for formalities nor fake politeness. Everything must be said with brutal honesty. "My humble sect has an unreasonable request and I hope you could help with that."

Lin Feng arched his eyebrows. Could it be that they like Xiao Budian's Infinite Thunderstorm spell, and want it for themselves?

That was not just a matter of being disrespectful; it actually warranted a beating.

The Blue Pavilion Holy Man realized that his words may be misinterpreted and rushed to correct himself. "After I heard about it from my juniors' descriptions, I had some questions in my heart and I hope that you could answer them for me."

"Had your disciple ever cultivated the Nine Clouds Heavenly Thunder Orthodox Spell?"

Here, Lin Feng's head spun and he suddenly remembered some information about the Purple Clouds Sect. He suddenly understood.

While the founder of the Purple Clouds Sect was the Purple Clouds Holy Man, who was the big disciple of the Thunder Lord and had inherited much of his powers from the Thunder Lord, what was regrettable was that he did not manage to learn everything from him.

The Purple Clouds Holy Man cultivated an imperfect version of the Great Way of the Nine Heavens Divine Thunder. While there were historical accounts as to what was missing from it, most of it had already been lost to time.

As for Lin Feng, the first spell he obtained, the Nine Clouds Heavenly Thunder Orthodox Spell, was derived from the imperfect version of the Great Way of the Nine Heavens Divine Thunder.

However, the Nine Clouds Heavenly Thunder Orthodox Spell was an extremely rare and valuable spell brimming with potential.

One can understand the potential of a complete version of the Great Way of the Nine Heavens Divine Thunder just from it.

The Purple Clouds Holy Man was truly lived up to his name as a sect founder. While parts of the spells were missing, he managed to find another way to perfect the Great Way of the Nine Heavens Divine Thunder.

This method was called Experiencing Thunder Tribulations, which involved getting struck by thunder while relying on one's own intelligence and intuition to understand its secrets. As such, the manual of the Purple Clouds Sect was known as the "Heavenly

Tribulation Dao Manual".

Other cultivators would undergo the thunder tribulations only after they reached the peak of the Aurous Core stage and was about to enter the Nascent Soul stage.

However, cultivators of the Purple Clouds Sect who cultivated the "Heavenly Tribulation Dao Manual" would experience the thunder tribulations as Foundation Establishment stage cultivators. They would also experience it more than once.

After passing through each phase, they would have to experience a thunder tribulation. Hence, in one's entire cultivation life, they would have to experience nine thunder tribulations before successfully advancing to the Nascent Sou stage.

While the thunder tribulations were weaker than those experienced by every cultivator as they formed their Nascent Soul, the mastery of the Purple Clouds Sect cultivator was way lower than those cultivators in their Aurous Core stage. Hence, the chance of them successfully making through the thunder tribulations was extremely low.

Other than that, however, there was no other way to perfect the Great Way of the Nine Heavens Divine Thunder. As such, generations upon generations of disciples of the Purple Clouds Sect rushed to use this method despite knowing its extreme risks.

After tens of thousands of years, countless of cultivators and masters died in a thunderclap.

And that was because of that, everyone within the Purple Clouds Sect sought to find the missing piece while using the current dangerous methods.

"However, it could also be that the disciples of the Purple Clouds Sect were stronger because they experience so many thunder tribulations. It could be said to be a form of compensation."

Many thoughts floated in Lin Feng's mind, but it was gone in an instant.

"You're right. I had unintentionally came across the Nine Clouds Heavenly Thunder Orthodox Spell. While it was not as exquisite as my spells, it was extraordinary in its own right and hence, I let my disciple cultivate it."

Lin Feng admitted it openly as with the Blue Pavilion Holy Man's status, for him to come personally and ask about it would mean that he was 100% sure Lin Feng had it.

The Blue Pavilion Holy Man nodded and said sincerely, "My humble sect had been searching for the Nine Clouds Heavenly Thunder Orthodox Spell for thousands of years. Today, after finally finding it, I hope that you could agree to my request. We would be immensely grateful."

While he did not say it explicitly, it was clear what his intentions were at this point. If Lin Feng had any request, he could raise it. As long as it was not too difficult, the Blue Pavilion Holy Man would

agree.

Lin Feng smiled slightly, "You are being too kind, Blue Pavilion Holy Man. I believe in pleasing people, and this could be counted to be a token of friendship between our two sects."

He flicked his finger and a small ball of light appeared before the Blue Pavilion Holy Man. He accepted it and with his mana, he immediately recognized it as the entire manual for the Nine Clouds Heavenly Thunder Orthodox Spell.

It was perfect, without any missing information or hint of deceit.

The aspiration of his entire sect for thousands of years had been realized as well as his personal goal for thousands of years. He became emotional in that instant.

Even after obtaining the Nine Clouds Heavenly Thunder Orthodox Spell, the Great Way of the Nine Heavens Divine Thunder was still incomplete but with only a few missing pieces. It was a great progress in reconstructing the Great Way of the Nine Heavens Divine Thunder for the Purple Clouds Sect.

The Blue Pavilion Grandmaster steadied himself and raised his head to look at Lin Feng. His gaze appeared to be searching.

While Lin Feng was unperturbed, he just smiled slightly as if he was happy for helping the Purple Clouds Sect re-create their spells.

After being silent for a long while, the Blue Pavilion Holy Man clasped his hand and bowed before Lin Feng and said seriously, "I represent my entire sect is appreciating our appreciation for your assistance."

Lin Feng smiled. He did not work for free, but what he obtained from the Purple Clouds Sect today was valuable beyond measures; their gratitude.

Any form of debt could be repaid, except gratitude.

If he were to demand something of the Blue Pavilion Holy Man, the nature of their meeting would change into one of a transaction. After the transaction, there would be no follow-up.

And now, the transaction made the Purple Clouds Sect in his debt. This could be useful in the future.

For the Celestial Sect of Wonders to rise and establish itself amongst the other sects, it must possess powerful allies.

Of course, the Purple Clouds Sect could choose to not acknowledge its debts and turn their backs on him.

As for Lin Feng, he did not lose much by giving away the Nine Clouds Heavenly Thunder Orthodox Spell. If the Blue Pavilion Holy Man were to default on his debts, Lin Feng had his way to deal with him.

However, right not it appeared that the Purple Clouds Sect, or the Blue Pavilion Holy Man at least, appeared to have remembered the kindness Lin Feng had shown him.

Lin Feng smiled as he waved his hand, "Like what I just aid, I hope that our two sects could become friends."

The Blue Pavilion Holy Man smiled and said, "I am sure that my disciples would be glad to see this too."

The two of them laughed.

"Lin Feng of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, come out!"

While laughing, a cold voice sounded from outside. Its tone was deeply unfriendly.

Lin Feng's expression did not change as his heart grew cold, "Such mana, an Immortal Soul stage cultivator?"

Chapter 275: Alternative Intentions

With the sound of the voice, the entire room appeared to tremble as if it was going to collapse.

At that moment, Lin Feng experienced something strange. He felt as if he was caught in a world that was hot and cold at the same time. Extreme heat mingled with a biting freeze.

This feeling was strange as it was not simply a transition from cold to hot, which would be occasionally cold and occasionally hot. Instead, he felt both temperatures at the same time.

It was also not as if half of his body was cold and the other half hot. Rather, every single inch of his skin felt both hot and cold at the same time.

The cold was extremely cold. In the entirety of Lin Feng's life, the only thing that came close to it was the Xuanming Primordial Water.

Likewise, the heat was extremely hot. Lin Feng had never felt such heat before other than his experience before the few primordial fires.

The temperature in the room did not change at all. Everything felt as if his opponent had cast a spell on Lin Feng's soul. This cold and hot feeling appeared to be felt only by Lin Feng. The Blue Pavilion Holy Man next to him was oblivious.

However, the Blue Pavilion Holy Man soon realized that something was amiss. He snorted coldly, "Cao Wei of the Heaven Lake Sect."

Lin Feng was never at the receiving end of the spells of the Heaven Lake Sect before. Now that the Blue Pavilion Holy Man mentioned it, a name surfaced in his brain.

The Icy Fire Holy Man, Cao Wei, also known as the master of the Heaven Lake Sect.

The contingent of the Heaven Lake Sect that would be attending the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai was personally led by Cao Wei.

"Legend has it that the Heaven Lake Sect is based in a lake in the snowy mountains. Amidst the snowy plains an active volcano resides. No wonder he could cultivate such a weird spell that combines both fire and ice," said Lin Feng smilingly. He was familiar with the spell Cao Wei was casting on him.

The Blue Pavilion Holy Man's snow-white eyebrows danced slightly as he smiled.

If Lin Feng could not defeat Cao Wei, he did not mind helping. However, in that case, the debt he owed Lin Feng would be repaid.

Partners of different power levels could never be equals in a

relationship. The stronger party would dominate the weaker one.

"The Celestial Sect of Wonders is indeed extraordinary," nodded the Blue Pavilion Holy Man in approval.

The room they were in was specially prepared by the Great Qin Empire for visitors to Yuzhou City. The environment was pleasant, and to expect it to resist the Immortal Soul stage Icy Fire Holy Man, Cao Wei, would be a joke.

Cao Wei's voice came into the room from the sky. It did not anger, but rather it was only icy cold. "I heard that disciples of your Celestial Sect of Wonders ranked first amongst equals."

"If that's the case, let's spar and determine if your Celestial Sect of Wonder could live up to its boast."

Before he had finished speaking, Lin Feng already felt a massive blast of mana.

Without exiting the room, Lin Feng could see a middle-aged man of average height in the sky. His head was wrapped in a turban and he wore a white robe, like a scholar. He wore a cloak made out of white wool and his gaze was fixated on Lin Feng.

When the two of them exchanged gaze, Lin Feng felt as if his gaze was deep like the ocean, still yet unpredictable.

Cao Wei's gaze was icy beyond belief, but within his icy gaze, a

fiery emotion appeared to be burning.

His eyes were white like snow, like an arctic tundra. However, in the whites of his eyes, a fire burned.

The fire was not strong and appeared highly suppressed. When Lin Feng looked at the fire, it was as if he stood at the edge of a volcanic crater and he was staring down at it, looking at the gurgling lava.

Cao Wei said coldly, "The Celestial Sect of Wonders?"

Icy crystals suddenly appeared next to his body. They jumped relentlessly, like flickering flames.

Lin Feng, however, could see that these crystals were made from snow and ice. However, these crystals danced in the sky like fire and burned with intense heat.

Lin Feng thought in his heart, "Could this be their signature move, Icy Blaze?"

The most potent spell of the Heaven Lake Sect was known as the Dark Polar Blaze Mantra. Once one cultivates it successfully, he could cast both ice type spells and fire type spells, combining both for devastating effects.

"Is there something wrong with his brain?" Lin Feng thought. "Why is he spoiling for a fight? Does he not like me? Why does he

want to fight for no good reason?"

Cao Wei's Icy Blaze only danced about him initially. Now, it filled the entire sky, enveloping the whole of Yuzhou City in it. An entire heaven's worth of burning fire and freezing ice came down on Lin Feng like a rain of fire.

Faced with the rain of fire, both Lin Feng and the Blue Pavilion Holy Man had to be careful. Every single drop of rain was akin to an ember, brimming with the powerful mana of an Immortal Soul stage cultivator and of course, highly destructive.

Lin Feng sat in the room, unmoving. He extended his right finger and made a grabbing motion in the air.

Instantly, the rain of fire in the sky disappeared.

Before them, a giant dimensional tear appeared, gurgling with chaos. Numerous strands of the Earth, Water, Fire and Wind spiritual energy churned within it, more ferocious than the rain of fire, as it devoured the latter.

The sky above Yuzhou City appeared to have been destroyed by Lin Feng's technique. The void then turned destructive, as it aimed its opening towards Cao Wei as the countless strands of spiritual energy within it rushed towards him as if it was about to eat him up.

Cao Wei's expression did not change. He nodded his head and

made an incantation as he bellowed, "Seal!"

The Icy Blaze next to him began to dance. The original blazing hot temperature gradually decreased until it became freezing cold. The exterior of the Icy Blaze, which at first resembled ice and snow, turned into a white flame.

In comparison to the burning snow originally, the Icy Blaze was now a freezing flame. It now danced slowly, as if it was in slow motion. No longer a flickering flame, it gradually solidified.

As the flames danced, it froze the various spiritual energies charging towards it before reducing them to nothing.

Lin Feng looked calmly at Cao Wei and the thought, "Perhaps I should test my new spell on him?"

In the earlier clash, Cao Wei used two techniques to fight against one of Lin Feng's techniques and hence, appeared to be at a disadvantage. Taking into consideration how he appeared before Lin Feng brimming with ferocity, it would be hard for him to accept this humiliation.

Indeed, Cao Wei began to mutter under his breath as the Icy Blaze next to him morphed into the shape of a volcano. From within the volcano, a terrible power could be felt.

However, Lin Feng's eyebrows creased, not because his spell was too strong but instead, it was because this spell was too weak.

Its power was not weak, but it was cast too slowly. Once one had reached Cao Wei's level, one should be able to cast a spell with just a single word.

Now, while it appeared to be cast in an instant to passers-by, to Lin Feng the spell was indeed cast too slowly.

At this moment, a fat old man, doubling over in laughter, appeared between the two of them. He chortled happily, "The upcoming conference was meant for the disciples to spar. Why are two masters sparring now then?"

"Calm, calm, please. Please leave some face for the Great Qin. I beseech you."

Lin Feng smiled slightly, "Oh so it's the Vivant Joy Holy Man. How have you been?"

The Vivant Joy Holy Man smiled and said, "You are too kind, Master Lin."

He turned his head to Cao Wei and said, "Master Cao, long time no see."

While he had yet to see this person in real life before, Lin Feng had already made some efforts to understand the key players of the Great Qin Empire.

While this old man appeared to be a ball of joy, he was actually one of the core members of the Great Qin Empire, also known as the Vivant Joy Holy Man.

He was originally a scion of the royal family and had achieved the Immortal Soul stage a thousand years ago. Normally, he would be blissfully touring the land. However, whenever the Great Qin Empire had something on, he would render assistance

No one could have thought that he would attend the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai.

This discovery made Lin Feng slightly uneasy as he thought, "If the rarely-seen Vivant Joy Holy Man had been called upon, what about the other Immortal Soul stage cultivators of the Great Qin Empire? It appears that this Conference is not so simple and that the Great Qin Empire is after something bigger."

"Long time no see," Cao Wei said coldly to the Vivant Joy Holy Man. His eyes darted about as if he wanted to do something.

In that moment, two streaks of sword radiances suddenly split the sky. One landed on the Vivant Joy Holy Man's left, and the other on his right. The razor-sharp sword aura made both Lin Feng and Cao Wei uncomfortable.

"Does Master Cao want to massacre the entire Yuzhou City?" The person on the left, who looked handsome like Aeolus and as youthful and bright like a jade tree, said while laughing, his voice clear like the spring wind. "If the two of you were to actually fight,

not only would Yuzhou City be destroyed but the whole of the northern region of the Great Qin Empire."

Lin Feng's and Cao Wei's eyes squinted as they said, "Sun Radiance Swordmaster?"

While the person appeared youthful, he was actually an Immortal Soul stage cultivator with thousands of years under his belt. He was one of the members of the Nine Heavenly Sword Alliance, the master of the Sun Moon Sword Sect, the Sun Radiance Swordmaster.

The disciples of the Sun Moon Sword Sect were paired up after they passed the Foundation Establishment stage as they chose their partners for life. One boy and one girl, one Yin and one Yang. While one practised the Sun Radiance Sword Manual, the other would practice the Lunar Glow Sword Manual as they complemented each other.

If one of them fell in battle, then they would be paired up with another disciple of the Sun Moon Sword Sect of a similar mastery who needed a partner too.

However, as it was extremely difficult to attain the Immortal Soul stage, only the Sun Radiance Swordmaster had managed to reach that stage. His partner was not so lucky. Hence, strictly speaking, he may be the only single person amongst every single cultivator above the Foundation Establishment stage in his sect.

After a thousand years, he was still waiting for his Lunar Glow

Swordmaster.

The disciples of the Sun Moon Sword Sect could massively amplify their powers by fighting together. However, if they were to fight alone, their powers too were not diminished in any way. As the swordmaster of the Sun Moon Sword Sect, the Sun Radiance Swordmaster was in no way weaker than the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster.

The person on the right of the Vivant Joy Holy Man was the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster whom Lin Feng had met before. He did not say anything. Without even looking at Cao Wei, his gaze fell upon Lin Feng as he contemplated what to say.

The Vivant Joy Holy Man laughed, "As the host, I beg that the both of you show me some face."

Lin Feng smiled as if nothing happened, "Then, we shall listen to the host." Since he did not lose out on much, he was actually quite willing.

Furthermore, through his observations, he realized that Cao Wei's coming today was not simply a matter of him spoiling for a fight. He appeared to have alternate intentions, and under these circumstances, he did not want Cao Wei to get what he wanted.

Cao Wei, who hovered in the sky, looked at the Vivant Joy Holy Man. Then, he looked at the Sun Radiance Swordmaster and the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster. He nodded his head coldly, "After the conference, we shall settle it."

With the arrival of the host, Lin Feng and the Blue Pavilion Holy Man no longer found it apt to sit in the room. They stood up and flew into the sky. Facing the many Immortal Soul stage cultivators, the Vivant Joy Holy Man laughed happily, "The Spiritual Conference of Huanghai is about to begin as we had reached the official opening date. Everyone, please follow me to the Sea of the Northern Wind."

Lin Feng smiled and nodded his head. As he was about to agree, he thought of something, "F*ck, those clowns are still fooling around!"

Chapter 276: Planting Evidence to Stir Troubles

Lin Feng's mind twitched as he felt a very killing intent rise into the sky from the northern streets of the Yuzhou City.

He saw on the streets a giant man, ferocious like a beast from time immemorial, standing firm on the ground while angrily gazing at a bunch of white-robed people.

The giant man appeared to come from a different ethnicity. His entire body was bursting with power like a dragon or an elephant and it was apparent that he specialized in physical martial arts. Behind him stood a bunch of cultivators dressed similarly. Every one of them brimmed with power and strength like a pack of dragons.

Looking at this sight, Lin Feng's heart missed a beat as he thought, "The Royal House of the Northern Tribes?"

The cultivators of the Royal House of the Northern Tribes could be divided into two extremes. Most of them specialized in physical martial arts and their physical body brimmed with power. In the entire Grand Celestial World, they were considered the top and could easily stand toe-to-toe with the Demonic Tribes.

A smaller group of them focused on cultivating spirit spells, otherwise known as Shamanism. While they were different from the mainstream spells of the Divine Lands, they were highly powerful in terms of spirit spells.

Facing the cultivators of the Northern Tribes, the white-robed group stared at them coldly. They were from the Heaven Lake Sect.

However, that was not the main point. The main point was that Lin Feng discovered Xiao Budian, Tun Tun and Zhuge Fengling was hiding in the streets near the groups, watching them with schadenfreude.

What made Lin Feng more worried was that the smiles on their three faces resembled that of three weasels who had successfully stolen three chickens from a coop.

Lin Feng's expression did not change as he fumed inside, "What s*it did the three of them stir up this time?"

Cao Wei too discovered something was amiss. When he saw the Northern Tribe cultivators, his face turned colder.

The Vivant Joy Holy Man too noticed the commotion. The usually buoyant Vivant Joy Holy Man sighed as he said, "Your Highness, the Prince Xian of the Left, please control your clansmen. If not, Yuzhou will be destroyed by you."

The two countries shared a common border, where sporadic border conflicts may erupt. If so many members of the Northern Tribes were to make a big commotion, it would appear to the common citizen of Yuzhou City as if they were invading, creating a terrible impression.

If his counterpart did not give a response, the Vivant Joy Holy Man, in spite of his normally cheery nature, would be forced to take drastic actions.

From the northern skies, a voice came, laughing, "Forgive me, Vivant Joy Holy Man. My sons are too brash."

The laughter appeared to have originated far away, but soon enough it appeared before Lin Feng and the rest.

Before everyone appeared a large middle-aged man, dressed in the luxurious robes of a different ethnicity. However, his dressing and smile could not conceal the violence and vitality brimming within him, which appeared to be close to bursting forth,

His entire body brimmed with strength. Lin Feng, who stood next to him, felt as if he was standing next to the sun.

The energy he gave off appeared to concretize into something solid. A red glow enveloped his body, striking fear into everyone's heart.

This was the first person Lin Feng had seen since he came to this world, who possessed such prowess in the physical martial arts. It was also the first person that he had seen, ever since he ascended to the Nascent Soul stage, who could best his Avatar of Ares.

This was the Prince Xian of the Left, one of the major figures of

the Royal House of the Northern Tribes who had reached the Immortal Soul stage.

Looking at him, Lin Feng thought, "To enter the Immortal Soul stage, one must combine his Nascent Soul together with the laws of Heavens and Earth. Only then could one form an Immortal Soul stage avatar."

"Many cultivators, after reaching the Nascent Soul stage, would choose to dispose of their physical body. However, this Prince Xian of the Left chose to do the opposite. He combined his Immortal Soul stage avatar with his physical body."

"Discarding the Immortal Soul stage avatar and not being bound by its restrictions while continuing to ameliorate his physical body... Only he would know the cost-benefit of a such an action."

Lin Feng thought, "The top cultivators of Man who cultivated physical martial arts should be the former Buddhist holy ground, the Great Thunderclap Temple. Apparently, after they had reached the Immortal Soul stage, they would form their own golden body, which is different from a normal Immortal Soul stage avatar."

"I wonder if he too followed the same principle of combining his Immortal Soul stage avatar with his physical body?"

After Prince Xian of the Left finished his sentence, the Northern Tribes cultivators began to rescind their killing aura. However, they pierced the Heaven Lake Sect with a furious glare.

The Heaven Lake Sect cultivators too maintained a frosty demeanor. They appeared impervious to their stares. The conflicts between the two of them were many, why not just settle it in one big showdown?

"Forgive me, Vivant Joy Holy Man. My kids are a bit brash, but you can't blame them," said Prince Xian of the Left slowly. "If you must know, my tribesmen, raise horses."

"Like how ordinary mortals raise horses, once my tribesmen began cultivation they too would raise pegasus. To them, these horses are like that. They are a part of our Northern Tribes. They are our family, our kinsmen, who accompanied us across the snowy tundras."

Prince Xian of the Left cast his gaze onto Cao Wei. While he was still smiling, a tinge of anger could be felt, "Now, I wonder which despicable bunch of people would actually dare to steal my kinsmen? How could we let such a transgression go?"

The Vivant Joy Holy Man doubled over in shock, "Your pegasus were stolen?"

The pegasus was one of the many fantastic beasts reared by the Northern Tribes. It looked like a horse, but it was much more powerful. Its body was big like an elephant and extremely wild and bloodthirsty.

Similar to the Thunder Draco Horse, the pegasus was descended from the Immemorial Celestial Dragon. While its blood was

impure, it was purer than that of the Thunder Draco Horse and much more powerful than it.

The Northern Tribes had one Pegasus Beast Lord whose power was immense. It was no way weaker than a Dragon Tribe member of the similar stage.

Each of the Northern Tribe cultivators possessed one of these beasts, whom they cared for and raised. Together, they began their cultivation. Not only were they their partners, they were a good assistance against their opponents too.

The Northern Tribe cultivators' relationship with their pegasus were extremely close. Now that they had been stolen, it was no wonder that they were infuriated.

Even the Immortal Soul stage leader of the Northern Tribes, Prince Xian of the Left, was triggered.

Looking at the unfriendly gaze of his counterpart, Cao Wei thought, "Why is he blaming me for this?" As he was about to open his mouth, words were stuck in his throat.

The relationship between the Heaven Lake Sect and the Royal House of the Northern Tribes was never friendly. Conflicts erupted between the two of them frequently, and these were not limited to just small-scale skirmishes.

Now that they were all concentrated in Yuzhou City, it was

highly possible that one of his disciples took offence at the Northern Tribes cultivators and killed their pegasus to vent.

While Cao Wei was able to monitor every single behavior of his disciple, he was not inclined to do so.

Even if such a thing did happen, then to him it was no biggie. While it may seem petty, Cao Wei had no intention of berating his own disciples.

"You can't even look after your own horses and yet you decided to blame it on others. Is this how the Northern Tribes operate?" Cao Wei replied coldly. "If I were Your Highness, I would ask myself I had slipped up in any way."

"Perhaps your horse ran away by itself? Don't blame everything on the Heaven Lake Sect, my sect has no energy to entertain you," Cao Wei said coldly. "If you want to fight, my sect accepts your challenge. Don't go and find such a lousy excuse."

Prince Xian of the Left of the Northern Tribes lifted his head to the sky and laughed, "What a sect! You dare to do it but you dare not admit it? My sons followed the feathers that our pegasus shed and it led us straight to your abode. Furthermore, we found one of our pegasus in your courtyard."

"We have both evidence and a culprit. How dare you not admit!"

Lin Feng looked at the two of them as he felt slightly uneasy. He

turned his body away from them without saying anything.

"Those two useless idiots!" Lin Feng almost wanted to slap his forehead. He was 90% sure that Xiao Budian and the rest stole the pegasus and then blamed it on the Heaven Lake Sect.

While their method was extremely crude, and the Northern Tribe would have surely found something amiss, but they probably chose to ignore it and decided to find trouble with the Heaven Lake Sect.

Regardless who did it, we'd beat you up first.

Indeed, using his psychic consciousness, Lin Feng noticed the Xiao Budian and the two others looking at the two groups staring each other down. It was almost as if he could not wait for a battle to start. They then hoped to take advantage of the chaos and steal one.

"Come back, they won't fight," Lin Feng projected his voice to the three troublemakers.

Xiao Budian and Tun Tun looked at each other and guffawed. Zhuge Fengling's face was covered with regret.

The three of them sneakily left the scene and returned to Lin Feng's side.

On the other side, the Vivant Joy Holy Man's face was filled with

despair as he tried to mediate between Prince Xian of the Left and Cao Wei.

"Today, both you and I are guests. I shall not waste words on you," said Prince Xian of the Left with a wave of his hand. "After the Conference began, we shall let our kids spar. Will you be willing to bet with me?"

Cao Wei said coldly, "What should we bet?"

Prince Xian of the Left said, "If our two sides do actually fight each other during the Conference, and your side wins, then we shall forget about this whole matter. However, if my Northern Tribes kinsmen win, then you shall make an open apology and return us our pegasus."

Cao Wei laughed coldly, "Hilarious, could your face be thicker?"

Prince Xian of the Left did not appear panicky. Instead, he said slowly, "If you can't decide right now, you can go back and discuss with your 'Two Elders of Ice and Fire'. I'll wait."

After the Sun Radiance Swordmaster and the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster heard that, a weird expression appeared on their face. Even the Vivant Joy Holy Man laughed awkwardly.

Lin Feng almost bit his tongue. While Prince Xian of the Left may appear coarse, his words stung like venom.

As opposed to the Sun Radiance Swordmaster and the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster, Cao Wei, while being the master of the Heaven Lake Sect, was not its sole leader. Above him was two elders, who had been practising closed-door cultivation for long and hence, few knew their names. Thus, they were known as 'Two Elders of Ice and Fire.'

In reality, the Two Elders of Ice and Fire did not care much about the world. All matters of the Heaven Lake Sect were settled by Cao Wei. His words, in the sect, could be taken as law. However, if the Two Elders of Ice and Fire were to say anything, then Cao Wei had to listen to them. Though these incidences were rare.

However, once Prince Xian of the Left used their names against him, it was akin to a form of psychological warfare.

Chapter 277: The Spiritual Conference of Huanghai

The Spiritual Conference of Huanghai

The words of Prince Xian of the Left of the Northern Tribes cut deeply.

From Lin Feng's perspective, a gloom appeared to have enveloped Cao Wei. After hearing these words, he was 80% sure that Cao Wei was almost going to fight with Prince Xian.

The Vivant Joy Holy Man's face too was guarded. Regardless, a battle between two Immortal Soul stage cultivators would reduce Yuzhou City into rubbles.

Who knew that while Cao Wei's expression was dark, he did appear too angry. He only said, coldly, "For such a small matter with the Northern Tribes, there's no need to alert my seniors."

In that moment, a voice came from the void into everyone's ears, "Gambling? How could you not count me in?"

Upon hearing that voice, the Vivant Joy Holy Man smiled bitterly and said, "Don't add fuel to the fire."

The Blue Pavilion Holy Man smiled too and turned his head to Lin Feng, saying, "I bet that he hasn't changed."

Lin Feng smiled in spite of himself. He did not need the Blue Pavilion Holy Man's introduction as he could guess from the content of the speaker's speech who he was.

He was the Great Qin Empire's Special Imperial Envoy, the Nascent Soul stage cultivator Zhuge Guang. Normally, people referred to him as the Gambling Holy Man, whereas he referred to himself as the Two Heavens Holy Man.

He treated gambling as an integral part of his life. He could bet with anything and on anything. From gambling, he understood the Tao. He understood the desires of Man and he incorporated that into his spells.

This person could be counted as one of the oddities of the Great Celestial World whose name would enter the annals of history.

Ordinary people gambled using money and property. Some people gambled using their wives and children after losing everything else. Regardless of what they gambled with, no one could beat Mr Zhuge Guang.

Because once, this old man had lost an Immortal Soul stage magic treasure in one of his gambling escapades.

It was definitely unprecedented and with likely no subsequent emulators.

While his appearance may be slightly inopportune, it helped to resolve the previously tense atmosphere. The Vivant Joy Holy Man took this chance to mediate and calmed both Prince Xian of the Left and Cao Wei down.

"Everyone, the Huanghai Spiritual Conference is about to start. Please follow me to the Sea of the Northern Wind."

The Vivant Joy Holy Man laughed as he led the way. Everyone within Yuzhou City followed him.

Lin Feng brought the members of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, while Prince Xian of the Left and Cao Wei brought the Royal House of the Northern Tribes and the Heaven Lake Sect respectively.

Previously, in the catastrophic fight between Lin Feng and Cao Wei, the Asura Holy Man had remained out of the scene. Now, he appeared and he too was bringing cultivators of the Huo Family along as well.

Outside the city, the disciples of the Purple Clouds Sect, the Sword of Radiance Sect and the Sun Moon Sword Sect were split into three. They waited patiently for their respective leaders to appear. Once the Blue Pavilion Holy Man appeared, his disciples followed quietly behind.

While the distance between Yuzhou and the Sea of the Northern Winds was thousands of li, for people like Lin Feng, it was nothing. Every sect leader brought their entire sect to the location in an instant.

Even while viewing down from the clouds, the Sea of the Northern Winds appeared to be an endless lake, whose ends could not be seen. Everyone knew that it was a lake, but it certainly lived up to the word 'sea' in its name.

The entrance of the Ancient Huanghai World was apparently at the bottom of the lake.

By the side of the Sea of the Northern Winds, a group of people was waiting. The first two people from that group made everyone's hearts shudder.

One of them was a fat old man, whose black eyes were bright. He was like a kid, as he held a domino in his hand. He fidgeted with it ceaselessly.

"Is that the Gambling Holy Man, Zhuge Guang?" Lin Feng looked at the fat old man and then, his gaze shifted from Zhuge Guang to the man next to him, who was even more eye-catching.

The other man was dressed in a white robe with golden linings. His hair was white and his cheeks rosy. He gave off a regal appearance.

Lin Feng looked over and realized that he could not assess the old man's potential. However, he knew in his heart clearly that this old man was stronger than Zhuge Guang.

It was not only Zhuge Guang. Other than the two of them, Huo Xiu, the Vivant Joy Holy Man, Cao Wei, the Supreme Radiance Swordmaster, the Sun Radiance Swordmaster and the Blue Pavilion Holy Man were all unable to defeat him despite all six of them being in the Immortal Soul stage.

"This old man's mastery is one level above everyone else. He is much more powerful than just an ordinary Immortal Soul stage cultivator."

Lin Feng's heart understood but his expression did not change. Then, he realized that the old man swept the crowd with his gaze, which ultimately landed on him.

The two of them looked at each other for a while, before the old man nodded his head just so slightly and said loudly, "I thank everyone on behalf of the Great Qin Empire for coming to this Conference. It is indeed a great honour."

Everyone descended as the Sun Radiance Swordmaster said smiling, "You are too polite, Prince Anliang."

Lin Feng's heart jolted as he finally understood the old man's background. He was Prince Anliang Shi Zongyue, a prince of the Great Qin Empire. Furthermore, he was the uncle of the incumbent reigning emperor. His person in the Great Qin Empire was supremely high and well-respected. He was definitely one of the core members of the imperial household.

Shi Zongyue looked at Cao Wei, "Are Lin and Shang doing well?"

The Lin and Shang who he mentioned were no doubt the Two Elders of Ice and Fire. However, with the tone that Shi Zongyue used, it was evident that he viewed Cao Wei as a junior.

"Thank you for your concern, Prince Anliang. The two of them are fine and doing their closed-door cultivation," Cao Wei replied in a style befitting that of a sect master. Before Shi Zongyue, he did not humble himself but instead said lightly, "My Master Lin mentioned that he would gain much from his closed-door training."

"After the two of them ended their closed-door training, I'm sure they will find their old friends."

Hearing that, Shi Zongyue smiled as he looked at Cao Wei up and down with his eyes. Smiling, he said, "That's great, I can't wait for them."

The eyes of Prince Xian of the Left, who was next to them, grew dark. It was evidently not good news for him.

Everyone paid their respects to him. Finally, Shi Zongyue's gaze fell upon Lin Feng as he said, "You are truly frightening. You've really made quite a name for yourself."

Lin Feng's expression did not say as he said calmly, in a voice that was like the breeze, "Too bad many young ones today do not know how to respect their elders." As he said that, his gaze swept over Cao Wei unwittingly and deliberately.

While Lin Feng appeared to look like a teen, his background was too mysterious. Everyone was trying to guess who his master was and what was the true extent of his powers. They even tried to guess his real age.

By deliberately using his age against Lin Feng, Shi Zongyue was trying to test his reaction. However, Lin Feng managed to rebut his attempts with one sentence.

While Lin Feng's gaze appeared to have landed on Cao Wei, even Shi Zongyue was unsure about which 'young one' was he referring to exactly.

As one of the most senior members of the Great Qin Empire, if Shi Zongyue was considered old in Lin Feng's eyes, then it would be something truly remarkable.

From another perspective, Lin Feng's words could have alternative meanings.

Do not try to use your age before me, I don't buy it. If you dare to provoke me, then I shall retaliate in kind regardless of your age.

One sentence, which could be read both superficially and with deeper meanings.

"Interesting," responded Shi Zongyue without a tinge of anger. Instead, an unreadable smile appeared on his face.

The Vivant Joy Holy Man now stood next to Shi Zongyue. The Great Qin Empire now deployed all three of its Immortal Soul stage cultivators to display their hospitality as hosts. Undoubtedly, Shi Zongyue was the leader of the three.

After everyone had paid their respects, Shi Zongyue opened his mouth and said, "Shall it be similar to the previous Conferences, the stage where everyone will demonstrate their martial prowess shall be within the Hidden Dragon Gorge."

(Translator's Note: The Hidden Dragon Gorge is actually a pot-like item with a separate dimension within it. Hope this helps with visualization!)

Lin Feng and rest looked at each other and shook their head.

The Hidden Dragon Gorge was one of the magic treasure of the Great Qin Empire which concealed an entire world within it. It could create its own abode and was one of the mythical small worlds.

In the previous conferences, the Hidden Dragon Gorge served as the stage as the disciples of the various sects entered it to fight each other.

The Hidden Dragon Gorge had many unique uses. One of its greatest uses was that everyone's mana within it would be capped. If anyone battling within the pot were to receive a fatal blow, then the Pot would help the cultivator absorb the blow, sparing his life.

Normally, the Hidden Dragon Gorge was the place where the many scions of the Great Qin Empire trained. In there, they could use all their techniques without inhibition in a battle to the death.

Since Lin Feng and the rest had no objection, Shi Zongyue flipped his palms and said, "Rise!"

An exquisite pot emblazoned with intricate dragon carvings floated into the mid-air. While it appeared to only be as big the palm of a middle-aged man, the mana that it emitted made everyone shudder.

"It shall be the same as previous years. To encourage disciples to do their best, the champions of this conference shall be granted access to the Ancient Huanghai World," said Shi Zongyue. "The competition shall be split into two categories: the Aurous Core category and the Foundation Establishment category."

"Every sect or family can send four Aurous Core stage cultivators and four Foundation Establishment stage cultivators. After a random match-up and the contest, the top 16 Aurous Core stage cultivators and the top 8 Foundation Establishment stage cultivators shall be granted access to the Ancient Huanghai World."

The Ancient Huanghai World possessed dangerous, primal forces. It was not a holiday resort and if weaker people entered the world it could be dangerous. Hence, they capped the entry of Foundation Establishment stage cultivators at six.

In reality, even after they entered it the Foundation Establishment stage cultivators would require the protection of their Aurous Core stage counterparts for safety.

Lin Feng and the rest already understood it all, and hence they had no qualms.

Shi Zongyue turned to look at the Sun Radiance Swordmaster and asked, "For disciples of the Sun Moon Sword Sect, will you compete according to precedents?"

Everyone knew that the disciples of the Sun Moon Sword Sect battled in pairs. A pair of Sun Moon Sword Sect disciples would project much more power than just two of them.

Once they decided to fight in pairs, they would be in their strongest form. However, it was not fair to the other cultivators. Even if two of them ganged up to fight the Sun Moon Sword Sect pair in a two-on-two, they would still be at a disadvantage.

Hence, in previous iterations of the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai, they fought alone.

This rule was known by everyone, including Lin Feng. However, as he had his own plans, he decided to raise a differing opinion. "I feel that for this year, the rules pertaining to the Sun Moon Sword Sect can be changed."

Chapter 278: Three and a Half opponents.

Shi Zongyue and the rest looked at one another and were a little curious, "Master Lin, what advice do you have?"

Lin Feng slightly smiled, "To allow the Sun Moon Sword Sect to field two people in the competition. When we draw lots and draw the names of their members, we can let them choose a partner each and engage in a two versus two competition."

"If they do not enter the top 16 of the Aurous Core Stage or the top 8 of the Foundation Establishment Stage, then it is fine. However, if they do enter, the winner out of the two parties can enter the Ancient Huanghai World. " Lin Feng explained, "If they spar after entering the top 16 of the Aurous Core Stage or the top 8 of the Foundation Establishment Stage, the party that emerge victorious over the disciples of the Sun Moon Sword Sect will also receive two nominations, whereas the disciples of the Sun Moon Sword Sect will still retain two nominations to enter the Ancient Huanghai World."

Lin Feng looked at Shi Zongyue, "From what I know, the competition ranking of the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai is used to motivate the younger ones to seek improvement.

Another purpose of it is also because the Ancient Huanghai World is unstable and that the huge amount of people entering and exiting will cause tremors in space."

"But even if all the disciples of the Sun Moon Sword Sect qualify,

it is at most only eight people, within the tolerance level of the Ancient Huanghai World."

Upon hearing this, the Sun Radiance Swordmaster became entirely silent. If they could fight in pairs, then his Sun Moon Sword Sect would definitely have a bigger advantage as compared to solo duels.

Shi Zongyue, Zhuge Guang, and the Vivant Joy Holy Man exchanged glances without speaking. The Sun Moon Sword Sect had always maintained a good relationship with the royal family of the Great Qin Empire. When their powers increased, the Sun Moon Sword Sect would also be happy to see it.

Some of the Immortal Soul Elders had also exchanged glances within themselves and agreed that this proposition had its pros and cons.

If they could overcome the duos of the Sun Moon Sword Sect, then they could obtain another nomination to enter the Ancient Celestial World.

Without a doubt, this was a very attractive proposition. Beyond the spiritual conference, this concerned the pride and face of each sect. The disciples that were sent to fight were the elites and no one was a pushover. Nobody knew what kind of opponents they could face.

People with the same level of powers who met in the first round was not an unfamiliar thing.

It was just that the news that the reputation of the Sun Moon Sword Sect's duos caused many people to deliberate over the matter.

As the initiator of this issue, Lin Feng was very indifferent and did not seem to worry that his own disciples would be at a disadvantage.

Those at the scene were immortals that a thousand years of experience. They would not agree to send their disciples to lose just because they wanted to compete with Lin Feng.

However, they would not underestimate or overestimate their opponents. Although the duos of the Sun Moon Sword Sect were famous, many of these immortals still retained their confidence in their own disciples.

Even if they really could not match up, it was also an invaluable practice and experience.

Many of the Immortal Soul Elders looked at one another and nodded in unison, "We shall follow Master Lin's proposition then."

Lin Feng followed with, "In addition, my Celestial Sect of Wonders will be sending two Aurous Core Stage disciples and three Foundation Establishment Stage disciples to participate in this spiritual conference."

After hearing this, Shi Zongyue, Cao Wei, and the Sun Radiance Swordmaster revealed a laughing intent on their faces.

Lin Feng was undisturbed and continued to wear a smile on his face, not feeling any hint of embarrassment.

Shi Zongyue let out a dry cough, "No harm, the competition format will still be through drawing lots. The Aurous Core Stage category will be left with two people, while the Foundation Establishment Stage will be left with one only. That person will be decided through the drawing of lots."

Lin Feng nodded his head, "This method is suitable."

Shi Zongyue said, "The rest can proceed to socialize with others. We will begin the drawing of lots in a moment."

The few of them released their own mana and their own disciples landed on the ground. The spiritual conference was a grand one, besides the cultivators who were truly participating, there were also many others who came to observe the competition, including several cultivators of the Soul Formation Stage.

There were even cultivators of the Qi Cultivation Stage. They were often the talents with the greatest potential and had been specially picked out by their elders to observe and learn.

The rest were here as supporters. Only Lin Feng's sect was a little absent, with only two or three individuals present.

But most of the people would not underestimate the Celestial Sect of Wonders. Xiao Budian, Zhu Yi and the rest were famous already. The Sect-Opening Ceremony at Shazhou had enhanced the reputation of the Celestial Sect of Wonders to a certain extent.

After that, Xiao Budian and the rest wanted to thank their Big Senior, Xiao Yan, who was not there in person.

The elite cultivator in the early stage of the Soul Formation Stage of Xingyun Peak, Prince Chong Yun's experience at the battle was leaked even though the news was contained largely by a few individuals, as there were many disciples of the Sword of Radiance Sect who were present at the scene.

On many occasions, it was these sort of containment that aroused the attention of many people.

Of course, there were occasions where it came and go.

A lady in white appeared in front of Xiao Budian and the rest at this moment and sat on her knees first. Lin Feng, who was resting, greeted her and he followed that by looking at Xiao Budian and the rest.

This lady was ravishing and her facial features seemed to have come from a painting. However, they revealed her aggression. Although this was very attention seeking, it did not seem to be overly domineering. Her gaze revealed a competitive streak within her.

"Xiao Yan is not here?" The lady in white was a little disappointed after pondering over it for a moment. But after landing her gaze on Xiao Budian and Zhu Yi, she still nodded her head, "You two are not that bad either."

She looked at Tuntun, who was at the side, "You are pretty good too."

Tuntun pursed her lips and turned her head towards the side, muttering, "Not sure whether you taste good though."

The lady in white overheard it but was not enraged. On the other hand, she laughed, "You have eaten so many of the red-feathered cranes on Xingyun Peak. I have yet to settle this matter with you."

Tuntun bared her teeth at her, but the lady had already turned her body and left, shaking her heads while walking, "Hopefully I will face all of you."

The big disciple of the Inner Echelon of the Sword of Radiance Sect, Zhao Yan, rushed over at this point and saw the lady in white. He could not help but laughed bitterly.

The lady in white laughed without a care, "Relax, I only went to say hello. That is all."

Zhao Yan watched as the lady in white left, turning his body and helplessly saying, "Big Senior is like that as a person. Please pardon

her discourtesy."

Xiao Budian was curious, "Are you not the big disciple of the Inner Echelon of the Sword of Radiance Sect?"

Zhao Yan replied, "Yes, I am. Above me, there is still a Big Senior, which is the person you just met."

After hearing Zhao Yan's description, Xiao Budian and Zhu Yi just realized the identity of the lady in white.

Tao Yaoyao is that lady. She is the true big disciple of the Inner Echelon of the Sword of Radiance Sect and the first cultivator in the Aurous Core Stage. It was just that she had remained behind closed doors over these few years, which caused people to slowly forget about her. Even within the Sword of Radiance Sect internally, some of the new disciples did not even know her existence.

But the truth was, Tao Yaoyao had already formed a reputation a few hundred years ago. She was also the last Immediate Disciple taken in by the Sword Radiance Swordmaster before Murong Yanran.

Zhu Yi nodded his head, "Tao Yaoyao, is she a so-called 'ravishing' Yaoyao? "

"Regardless of whether it is you all or Xiao Yan, although you can contend with a cultivator in the Soul Formation Stage with your

Aurous Core Stage cultivation, it is at most a contention." Zhao Yan scanned Xiao Budian and Zhu Yi, "But our Big Senior has ever used her Aurous Core Stage cultivation to kill a Soul Formation Stage freak!"

Xiao Budian's eyes brightened, "Oh?"

Zhao Yan wanted to say something, but something rung out from a distance, "It is accurate, but Tao Yaoyao suffered serious injuries from that incident. That is why she did not appear for many years, such that many people have already forgotten about her."

The person speaking was a young lady wearing a yellow yarn dress, smiling while looking at Xiao Budian. "Tianhao, I have not seen you for a long time. When I saw you the last time, you were only this big."

She laughed cheekily and used her hands to mimic the action of carrying a baby.

Xiao Budian looked at her and his gaze became more focused. He quietly said, "Oh? I do not recognize you."

The lady replied, "That is normal. You were only a newborn then and you were still drinking breast milk."

Tuntun interrupted, "He still drinks breast milk."

Xiao Budian kicked his leg backward and hit Tuntun. His

expression did not change and calmly said, "Are you from the royal family?"

"That is right. My name is Shi Xingyun." The lady replied while smiling, "Talking about it, I am also considered your clan sister. It is just that I am not sure whether you acknowledge this?"

Xiao Budian replied with a "Oh" and sized her up, "So you are Princess Xingyun. Greetings from Shi Tianhao."

Shi Xingyun laughed and naturally diverted the topic. Looking at the awkward Zhao Yan, she smiled, "With the talent of Yaoyao, it is a rare occurrence in the Sword of Radiance Sect. According to her past cultivation, under normal conditions, she will have already successfully formed her soul."

"But she is someone who always looks to spar with others, as it makes her happy. As she fought and fought, she really met with a battle with a Soul Formation Stage freak and took it too seriously, killing that person. But she suffered serious injuries on her own and her golden elixir was even cracked."

"With that kind of injury, even the Sword Radiance Swordmaster cannot heal it. She can only remain at Xingyun Peak to recuperate. But with that sort of injuries, there is no hope for her to form her soul. However, she is powerful and although she cannot progress in terms of her cultivation, she has recovered till her past standards."

Shi Xingyun rightfully said, "I believe that her participation in

this Spiritual Conference of Huanghai is for a miraculous healing herb in the Ancient Huanghai World. That is currently the only medicine that can mend a cracked golden elixir."

She looked at Zhao Yan and followed by winking at Xiao Budian and the rest, "She is the main opponent for all of you at this Spiritual Conference of Huanghai."

"After all, she has reached the peak of the later stage of the Aurous Core Stage. Tianhao, she is not like you where you have possessed such strong powers although you are only in the early stage of the Aurous Core Stage."

Xiao Budian heard this and revealed a wide smile on his face, "Talking about opponents, are you not one?"

Shi Xingyun continued to smile broadly, "Besides Zhu Yi, you have three and a half other opponents, Tianhao. I can only be considered half an opponent."

"Tao Yaoyao is one. Over at the Sun Moon Sword Sect, there is another duo, but they are only considered one opponent." Shi Xingyun turned her head and looked at the horizon far away, "The last one is not here yet, but will be here soon."

Chapter 279: The Spiritual Conference Officially Begins.

"The Spiritual Conference is first carried out by the competition between the cultivators in the Foundation Establishment Stage, followed by the Aurous Core Stage. Even if that person is late, it is fine. If he can reach before the last competition, it will be fine." Zhu Yi said, "Also I have to thank Princess Xingyun for the reminder."

Shi Xingyun leaned her body and looked at Zhu Yi for a moment, suddenly laughing, "Talking about it, that person has a little similarity with Zhu Yi. He is also a scholar – the top scorer and valedictorian of the scholarly examination of the Great Qin Empire."

Zhu Yi's gaze flashed, "Oh? For him to set himself apart amongst the many scholars in the Great Qin Empire, he must be something. Even if I cannot spar with him, I can still exchange knowledge with him. That is good, very good."

Shi Xingyun giggled, "Are all of the Celestial Sect of Wonders disciples so proud of themselves? I shall wait and see."

Looking at her back view as she left, Zhu Yi slightly turned his head and quietly said, "I do not think that she is only half an opponent."

Lin Feng, who was sitting and resting, suddenly smiled, saying, "The orthodox royal family of the Great Qin Empire has Chong

Yun in the Soul Formation Stage and Xingyun in the Aurous Core Stage. Although this saying has not entirely spread, it is not a secret either."

He opened his eyes wide and looked at Xiao Budian, laughing, "This clan sister of yours is not simple."

Xiao Budian was emotionless, waving his hands, "It does not matter. In my own realm, with the exception of my own siblings, I am invincible."

"Master, you must at least have some confidence in me!"

Lin Feng replied unhurriedly, "I naturally have confidence in all of you, especially you."

Before Xiao Budian smiled, Lin Feng followed with, "Especially in your gluttony and ability to create trouble."

"Ugh!" Xiao Budian groaned and suddenly became humble, looking at Lin Feng who was mocking him, "The Pegasus of the Royal House of the Northern Tribe was stolen by you surely?"

Xiao Budian laughed cheekily, pushing Tuntun and Zhuge Fengling in front of his body, "It was their idea. I only followed them, in case they ran into big trouble."

Tuntun and Zhuge Fengling both rolled their eyes, as they looked disgusted with Xiao Budian.

Lin Feng looked at all three of them gleefully, shaking his head, "It is fine that you stole it, but just remember to wipe your mouth clean after eating. Do not give others a chance to pinpoint fingers at you."

Xiao Budian laughed while patting Tuntun's belly skin, "Do not worry, Master. The feathery skin and the bones have already entered here. Not even one strand of feather is left behind. I used to think that her eating method was very rough, but now it seems pretty useful."

Tuntun bared her teeth at him, "Stop this, I have not even settle my issue with you for kicking me just now!"

"You asked for it." Xiao Budian answered uncaringly.

Lin Feng ignored them and turned his head to look at Yang Qing, who was at a corner. He was curiously sizing up the rest of the cultivators from the other sects, revealing a nervous expression.

Previously at Yuzhou City, Lin Feng allowed his disciples to roam around freely, but only Yang Qing returned to their quarters after going one round and used the remaining time to hone his mantra as if he was a student who was anxiously revising before an examination.

Maybe he also knew that that little time would not make much of a difference, but he could not control himself from using that time. It was just a way for him to feel more at ease.

Lin Feng firmly knew that Yang Qing personally was not very interested in joining this Spiritual Conference. He might be a little curious at the Ancient Huanghai World, but having to spar with others was something he did not enjoy.

Not that he was scared, but rather he lacked confidence in himself.

"If I can protect you for a moment, I can also protect you for life." Lin Feng said to him, "But think about it carefully, is that something that you want for your life?"

"Forever living under the shelter of others, without experiencing any hardships. This will reduce the amount of risks that you take, but it can also make your life duller."

Yang Qing took a deep breath and calmed his nerves, softly answering, "I understand. I will try my best and not lose the face of our sect."

"It is more of saving face for yourself. My face is not so easily thrown." Lin Feng looked at both of his eyes, "Think of the Cloud Water Cave, think about someone you miss the most."

Lin Feng focused, "I was distracted initially, but please be rest assured Master that I know what to do from now."

Lin Feng nodded his head in satisfaction, sighing in his heart, "5

points for determination...he still has a long way to go. But if he can succeed, the amount of hard work he is putting in now will be worth it." His eyes and Yang Qing's gaze met, enabling a spell to be transferred across an invisible bridge towards the brain of Yang Qing.

Yang Qing hurriedly memorized the spell that Lin Feng transferred to him, but he was a little confused after memorizing it. "Master, this spell...."

Lin Feng said, "This mantra is another branch of the mantras under our sect. You will encounter it sooner or later. But if you learn now, it can help to increase your abilities greatly."

"It is just that how much you understand is up to you."

Yang Qing nodded his head and sat on his knees, as he began to assimilate it seriously.

At this point, the first round of lot drawing for the Foundation Establishment Stage competition of the Spiritual Conference started.

The Vivant Joy Holy Master personally wrote the names of each and every competitor, before signing his name and putting the lots into a large copper jar. After that, he individually drew out the lots to decide the final pairings and schedule of the competition.

The heads of each sect were there to supervise the entire process.

Under such a circumstance, cheating was impossible. Even if there was any slight suspicion, there would be questions over the results, thus invalidating it.

If it was possible to cheat, that meant that the person was skilled and that the others would have nothing to say to that.

But the Vivant Joy Holy Master had no intention to cheat and the others were convinced by the results of the lot drawing. They acknowledged its legitimacy and allowed the competition to proceed.

Although the Sun Moon Sword Sect was given permission to send in duos for the competition, the Sun Radiance Swordmaster eventually decided to send in only four disciples, two to form one duo, to enter the competition for fear of gossip mongering. Therefore, they had one less 'person' compared to the Celestial Sect of Wonders. In the Foundation Establishment Stage competition, there would be three individuals progressing naturally to the next round.

It could not be said to be good or bad news. Among the three people progressing naturally in the first round, two of them were from the Celestial Sect of Wonders.

Both Wang Lin and Yang Qing progressed to the next round.

Only Yue Hongyan had entered the first round of the competition. She did not expend much energy to emerge victorious.

The last 16 was quickly decided after the first round. Regarding the first round, most of the people did not bother with it too much. For the Foundation Establishment Stage competition, only the top 8 would be given the nominations to enter the Ancient Huanghai World. The knockout stage for the last 16 to enter the next round was the main show to watch.

It was just that the final result left the elders with mixed feelings.

Out of the 16 people, two were from the Purple Clouds Sect, two from the Heaven Lake Sect, two from the Huo Family and one was from the Sword of Radiance Sect.

The duo from the Sun Moon Sword Sect was indeed dominant. Both the duos progressed to the last 16. Although they only took up two nominations, considering that the Sun Radiance Swordmaster had only sent four people to participate, all his members had entered the last 16.

In the first round, the duos from the Sun Moon Sword Sect displayed powers that were a grade higher than the rest. Although their opponents had also formed their own duos, they were not comparable to the Sun Moon Sword Sect.

Without even mentioning about their abilities, based solely on chemistry, a newly formed duo was unable to match up to the trained duos of the Sun Moon Sword Sect.

And although all three of Lin Feng's disciples from the Celestial

Sect of Wonders had progressed, it was not very convincing. After all, Wang Lin and Yang Qing progressed naturally without competing, which made others envious that they were lucky.

What spoiled the party was that only two cultivators that were sent by the Great Qin Empire had progressed to the last 16. However, it was predictable. After all, they were unlucky to have two of their cultivators matched together in the first round. Out of the two, only one could progress.

That competition between the two could also be said to be the exciting part of the first round.

Both parties displayed their skills, which were indeed unparalleled, leaving many regretful of the results. If they met with the cultivators of the other sects, they were more likely to eliminate the other sects and both of them could have progressed.

There was no rest after the first round and the lot drawing for the second round began.

The rule of the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai was that a new drawing of lots would resume after each round of competition. No one could predict who he would meet in the next round.

To Lin Feng, this method has its pros and cons. Under the strict supervision of the others, if there was no cheating involved, this rule could be said to be fairer.

In the first round of lot drawing, Lin Feng noticed that Wang Lin was fixated on the copper jar that contained the lots. When the results for those who could progress naturally were revealed, Wang

Lin was disappointed even though he did not reveal it in his expression.

Lin Feng sniggered in his heart, as he knew that Wang Lin was waiting to teach Huo Chen, the 17th Young Master of the Huo Family.

At this point, Wang Lin and his opponent was picked out. His opponent was not Huo Chen, but a royal disciple of the Great Qing Empire.

Whereas Huo Chen's opponent was the remaining disciple of the Sword of Radiance Sect.

Seeing the disappointed Wang Lin, Lin Feng patted his shoulders, "Calm your nerves, do not be affected by others."

Wang Lin nodded his head and was silent. He mumbled, "I want to keep him outside of the top 8 and totally destroy his hope."

Lin Feng turned his head and was a little creeped out by the evil intent he saw in Wang Lin's pupil.

Lin Feng prayed for Huo Chen in his heart, "You are in trouble

lad!"

He thought for a while before revealing a smile on the edge of his lips, "Regardless of which round you meet him, the defense mechanism of the Hidden Dragon Gorge will always be in place. But once you enter the Ancient Huanghai World, everything will be different."

Wang Lin's eyes lit up and he also revealed a smile, "Master, you are right. Now I hope that he will successfully enter the top 8."

Lin Feng laughed, "Do not be distracted by others. Enter the top 8 for me first."

"Master, please rest assured." Wang Lin said and he leaped up towards the opening of the Hidden Dragon Gorge. As the Hidden Dragon Gorge floated in mid space, it was only the size of a palm. Wang Lin's body rapidly shrank as he flew towards the opening. Eventually, he became the size of a sand particle as he entered the Hidden Dragon Gorge.

His opponent did the same thing.

Chapter 280: Enemies Cross Paths Easily.

The Hidden Dragon Gorge floated in mid-space and an image was projected from the opening of the pot, broadcasting the entire scene of the competition.

After the elimination in the first round, the remaining competitors were all elites. Lin Feng and the rest were also interested and watched the competition quietly.

After the competition, a group of elders would also comment on the performances of their disciples.

Being able to receive advice from these Immortal Soul Elders was an invaluable opportunity to many of them, even though they are the ones who had received all sorts of privileges within their own sect. This was also a big reward from participating in the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai.

As the other disciples listened to the invaluable advice given by their own Immortal Soul Elders, it was also a rare reward for them. Even though they were unable to enter the Ancient Huanghai World, it was still a worthwhile trip for them.

Lin Feng watched as Wang Lin sparred in the Hidden Dragon Gorge. Both parties were unable to gain an upper hand, which made him laugh in his heart.

The fighting style of his disciples were all different and special in their own way.

Zhu Yi and Yue Hongyan were similar as they often sought to end their battles as quickly as possible and finished their opponents in a straightforward manner.

Sparring with the both of them required one to give his all right from the beginning so that the stronger one would eventually emerge victorious. Conserving from the start would limit one's chances to whip out his wildcard, up till he lost the battle.

The remaining wildcard would still be in one's hand and indignance was all that would surface eventually.

Whereas Xiao Yan had a different fighting style. He would conserve his energy and used the bare minimum to defeat an opponent. If he could only use 30 percent of his power to win, then he would not use 40 percent. In front of the crowd, he would hide his true abilities. Only when necessary would he display it and shock the crowd

To Lin Feng, his inner complaint was that Wang Lin liked to act and he loved doing anything that gave him an opportunity to counterattack.

As for Xiao Budian, that little rascal always revealed his 'fangs' right from the beginning and his style depended on his mood, which was unpredictable.

In other words, it was unreliable.

For Yang Qing, he fought with others very little, which made Lin Feng a little clueless about what his fighting style was. He was like a spring, bouncing back and subduing the opponent late in the fight.

Wang Lin was an expert in acting. But this was because his current level of cultivation was a little low and many of the opponents he faced had abilities well above him. This necessitated his conservation of energy and finding a prime opportunity to finish the opponent, leaving the opponent hateful.

Right now, it was obvious that settling his opponent did not require him to use his full strength. But out of some unknown consideration, Wang Lin was conserving his energy and wasting time with his opponent. After a long stalemate, he picked out a flawed play in his opponent and emerged victorious.

After Wang Lin exited the Hidden Dragon Gorge, Huo Chen brushed past him and sniggered, "You are not that good?"

"I heard that your performance at Shazhou was not that bad, are you purposely hiding your true abilities? Or are your powers actually that bad, such that you have to rely on magic items and talismans?"

Wang Lin scanned him for a moment and replied calmly, "I really hope that you enter the top 8 too."

Huo Chen sniggered. Naturally, Wang Lin did not mean what he

said literally. He was hinting to Huo Chen that he only had the qualification to fight him only if he entered the top 8.

"You do not have to worry about this." Huo Chen hmphe, "I still thought that the royal family would produce some elites. But it seems like they are too lousy."

The defeated disciple of the Great Qin Empire followed behind Wang Lin out of the pot and was enraged as he overheard Huo Chen. Huo Chen laughed creepily and disappeared.

At this point, an expressionless young man wearing a bright yellow robe walked over. The defeated disciple of the Great Qing Empire looked at him and his face revealed a frightened expression.

The young man in bright yellow robe was silent. He suddenly whipped out his palm and slapped the disciple onto the floor.

Wang Lin and Huo Chen looked at the young man in the bright yellow robe immediately.

The young man looked towards them and suddenly smiled, "I am Shi Shaogan. I will need the advice from the two of you later on."

After saying a few words, his voice became relaxed. His gaze was flashing with splendor, which was captivating.

Huo Chen became very serious. Behind the guise of this dashing

young man was a ruthless and bloody person who made Huo Chen develop chills down his spine.

The fiercest demonic general in the Foundation Establishment Stage that he had previously killed was not even that frightening. Huo Chen had only experienced this feeling from a demonic commander that had formed the demon pill. But the Shi Shaogan in front of him had not formed the golden elixir and was still a cultivator in the Foundation Establishment Stage.

Wang Lin's expression was the same. After looking at Shi Shaogan, he said, "There will be an opportunity to."

Shi Shaogan laughed, revealing his snow-white teeth, lightly gritting it, "That is for sure."

Wang Lin nodded his head before proceeding to leave. Xiao Budian and Yue Hongyan approached him to congratulate him, "Congratulations for emerging victorious."

"Do not mock me anymore." Wang Lin revealed a light smile on his face. He wanted to say something, but he suddenly realized someone was looking at him from a corner.

Wang Lin looked over and saw a dashing youth wearing a white dress. Judging from his dressing, he was a disciple of the Heaven Lake Sect.

The youth saw that Wang Lin's vision was fixated on him and

began to laugh, "I am Fang Zhong from the Heaven Lake Sect. I was interested in you initially, but I have suddenly lost my interest."

"I heard that the internal fighting style of the disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders from the same realm was invincible. I do not believe in legends and only what I see." Fang Zhong was expressionless, "I do not underestimate my opponents, nor do I overestimate them. I can see that you were conserving just now, but if you had only conserved a little, then I have lost my interest in you."

Fang Zhong's line of vision landed on Yue Hongyan and he suddenly revealed a smile on his face. His smile hid an evil intent, "I am more interested in this person beside you."

He pronounced "interested" a little more loudly and it was obviously a little more frivolous. He looked at Yue Hongyan and laughed, "You might be a little too fierce, but you are a beauty."

Yue Hongyan's thin eyebrows creased. Xiao Budian waved his hand at her and turned his head to look at Fang Zhong, asking seriously, "Are you courting death?"

Fang Zhong wanted to argue back but he was obstructed. He felt the frightening mana vibration around Xiao Budian and swallowed his words.

"Better watch your words, this is not a place for you to spout gibberish." At this point, another Heaven Lake Sect disciple stood

beside Fang Zhong. A powerful aura resisted the pressure brought about by Xiao Budian. It was a cultivator in the Aurous Core Stage.

His aura was complete, revealing that he was in the late stage of the Aurous Core Stage.

"Mu Jihai from the Heaven Lake Sect." He stared at Xiao Budian and coldly said, "My disciple can say whatever he wants to, who are you to stop him? Do you think that you can play punk because you have your Master's backing, but you have to know that before you spout gibberish there are some people you cannot mess around with!"

Xiao Budian did not care about what he said and replied, "I will take responsibility for what I said. Some people better be responsible for what they said too."

He stared at Fang Zhong, "Let me say something now. If you dare to say anything untoward towards my senior again, you will be dead. Try me if you dare,"

Mu Jihai and Fang Zhong were unhappy to have been taught a lesson by a young kid. Having been born and bred in the Heaven Lake Sect, they have always been the domineering ones in the Northern Snow Fields.

Mu Jihai stopped Fang Zhong and laughed back, "Oh, I will have to try you then, you..."

As he was speaking, someone cut him off. "Junior Mu, please bring Junior Fang back. The next round will begin soon."

Mu Jihai and Fang Zhong shut their mouth at the same time, looking at Xiao Budian hatefully. They both return to the holding area of the Heaven Lake Sect and stood behind a young man.

That young man smiled at Xiao Budian and the rest courteously as well as nodded his head as a greeting.

But Xiao Budian could feel something creepy from the smile of that young man. He slightly creased his brows. At this point, a rough voice resonated around him, "That is the most outstanding disciple of the younger generation of the Heaven Lake Sect, Song Qingyuan. He is the most cunning and hide daggers behind his smile."

Xiao Budian, Wang Lin, and Yue Hongyan turned their heads. In front of them was a big man in high spirits and dressed in a tribal attire. He was as big as Jieyu in the human form and his aura was just as powerful as Jieyu in the demonic commander level.

"I am Dou Kun from the Northern Tribes." The man laughed. "The enemies of the Heaven Lake Sect are our friends."

Xiao Budian's eyeballs shifted and he laughed, "Yes, friends, friends."

"I really like your Pegasus, can you give me some?"

Dou Kun laughed, "You have good taste. Our Pegasus are considered the most suitable for long-distance riding among the world."

"Yes, they are." Xiao Budian nodded his head repeatedly. He almost wanted to say, "They taste good too." But he swallowed his words.

Xiao Budian tried to win him over. On the other side, inside the Hidden Dragon Gorge, Huo Chen had already completed his battle. "You are such a delicate flower, how can you be mentioned in the same sentence as someone like me who has gone through so much?"

His opponent's name was Chu Xinzhen, and he was the remaining Foundation Establishment Stage disciple of the Sword of Radiance Sect that had entered the top 16. Now that he had been defeated, he had no face to see the expression of his elders.

This defeat meant that the Foundation Establishment Stage disciples of the Sword of Radiance Sect had all been eliminated and no one entered the top 8.

Everyone in the Sword of Radiance Sect looked unhappy, except for the Sword Radiance Swordmaster.

The Asura Holy Man, Huo Xiu, was not pleased. The Vivant Joy Holy Master sighed and said, "In the next round, Yang Qing from the Celestial Sect of Wonders will face off with Fang Zhong from

the Heaven Lake Sect."

Fang Zhong laughed, "He is the most uninteresting opponent among the Celestial Sect of Wonders. Let me first finish him off before dealing with the other two."

Yang Qing ended his own meditation and stood up silently. His movement was a little stiff.

The group of Immortal Soul Elders were shaking their heads in their eyes. They could tell that Yang Qing was very nervous.

Without even mentioning his cultivation, his state of mind was bad enough.

Looking at the silent Yang Qing, Lin Feng revealed a smile on his face.

Cao Wei was expressionless and he looked at the smile on the edge of Lin Feng's lips, saying, "Lin Feng, do you dare to bet with me?"

Chapter 281: You'll Lose Your Knickers

"A bet?" Lin Feng's expression was calm as he said nonchalantly. "What shall we bet on?"

Cao Wei said, "Obviously it's going to be a bet on our disciples."

The group of Immortal Soul stage cultivators around them began to show interest as their attention became concentrated on Lin Feng and Cao Wei. The Blue Pavilion Holy Man gently arched his eyebrows as Prince Xian of the Left of the Northern Tribes said derisively, "Cao Wei, to think that you are a master of a sect, don't you possess any sense of shame despite being an Immortal Soul stage cultivator?"

Despite the Celestial Sect of Wonders becoming increasingly well-known recently, the Immortal Soul stage elders did not believe what they hear. They required eye-witness proof too.

They had all seen Yang Qing's current state. All of them knew that Cao Wei was taking advantage of the situation.

In response to Prince Xian of the Left, Cao Wei did not even respond to that. He said detachedly, "Of course, you could choose to not take up the bet."

Upon hearing that a bet was taking place, the most excited person was Zhuge Guang, the Gambling Holy Man. However, at that moment, he took frowned. If Lin Feng were to refuse the bet, it would mean that he did not respect Yang Qing.

Once someone had reached Lin Feng's or Cao Wei's position, there was no need to prove anything. Hence, there wasn't a matter of face or pride. However, if Lin Feng were to tacitly accept defeat, it would affect his team's esprit de corps and crush Yang Qing's already-frail confidence.

A dam of a thousand li could be destroyed with a single ant's nest. A small mistake could completely undermine the rise of the Celestial Sect of Wonders.

Shi Zongyue looked excitedly at Lin Feng as he tried to guess how would he respond.

Lin Feng was silent for a while before responding, "How is betting on our disciples any different from betting on cockfights or dog fights?"

Cao Wei responded without a second thought, "The collateral of our bets shall go completely to our disciples."

Upon hearing this, Lin Feng had no choice but to accept. He raised his head to look at Cao Wei and said, "According to you then, one of your disciples desires something of mine?"

"Correct," Cao Wei nodded his head without even bordering to hide the true intentions. He said in a straightforward manner, "I heard that you have a special kind of fruit on your hand called the Fire and Ice Fruit. If Fang Zhong were to win, then this shall be his prize. How about that?"

Lin Feng's expression did not change but his eyes narrowed. His heart was filled with suspicion as he thought, "How did this bastard know that I have the Fire and Ice Fruit?"

The Fire and Ice Fruit was something that Lin Feng had gotten earlier on through the system when he formed his Aurous Core. It was a special kind of fruit that gave off a deep freeze despite only being able to be grown on burning-hot soil.

This fruit possessed the properties of both Ice and Fire. Upon coming into contact with extreme cold it would render the chill into warmth. The colder it was the hotter it would burn. On the other hand, when it came into contact with extreme heat it would have the opposite effect. It would turn the blaze into a freeze. The hotter the blaze, the colder the freeze.

Upon landing into Lin Feng's hands, the item had only be used once, which was when he was searching for the Swelling Earth. He used it when he was infiltrating the Hundred Herbs Sect, on top of the Changchun Peak when he needed to sneak into the Hundred Herbs Grandmaster's Secret Elixir Chamber.

Other than that, Lin Feng had never used this strange treasure.

"Upon using the Ice and Fire Fruit, there could be some remnant spiritual energy left at the site. However, it should have dissipated not long after I used it," pondered Lin Feng. "Furthermore, after I beat the Gengjin Tiger King, together with Kang Nanhua and the Hundred Herbs Grandmaster, we totally trashed that place."

"Cao Wei could be in the Immortal Soul stage and his mana could be godly. Perhaps he discovered a strand of spiritual energy from the ruins, but it could not have been long for it would have long dissipated."

In other words, after Lin Feng had left the Changchun Peak, Cao Wei reached there.

The question was, the Changchun Peak was located at the southernmost point of the Hengduan Mountains, which itself was in the southern regions of the Divine Lands. Cao Wei, as the master of the Heaven Lake Sect which was located in the northern polar regions, would have to cross the entire Divine Lands to reach the Changchun Peak.

However, for such a rare object like the Fire and Ice Fruit, it would surely be hard to the cultivators of the Heaven Lake Sect, who cultivated both Fire-type and Ice-type spells, to obtain.

Many thoughts floated in Lin Feng's mind, but they all happened in a flash. He looked at Cao Wei and flipped his palms. A fruit, half-blue and half-red, appeared in his palm. It was the Fire and Ice Fruit.

"Since you explicitly stated that you want the Fire and Ice Fruit, then I shall determine what your collateral shall be," Lin Feng said slowly as if he had given much thought to the matter.

Cao Wei nodded his head, "Naturally."

Lin Feng said, "I heard that the Heaven Lake Sect has a spiritual fountain known as the Deep Freeze Dew. I wished to ask for that on behalf of my disciple."

As Cao Wei was about to say anything, Lin Feng cut him off and said, "I want 100 drops!"

Shi Zongyue's mouth twitched as everyone shook their heads gently. The Blue Pavilion Holy Man and Prince Xian smiled.

Everyone was shocked that Lin Feng had actually dared to ask for that.

The Deep Freeze Dew was famous under heaven as the top treasure of the Heaven Lake Sect. Only a few people within the Heaven Lake Sect could use it and its quantity was extremely few. In a year, it would produce only about 10 drops. Lin Feng had asked for 10 years' worth of Deep Freeze Dew in one go.

While the Heaven Lake Sect accumulated the Deep Freeze Dew, its number would deplete through daily usage. Its reserve quantity too was extremely limited. By asking for 100 drops, Lin Feng would have emptied out the Heaven Lake Sect's reserves in one go.

Cao Wei frowned, "The collaterals of both sides are not equal. Are you trying to worm yourself out of this bet?"

Lin Feng's face was expressionless as he said nothing. It was as if he

agreed to Cao Wei's statement.

"Fine, I'll bet with you!" Cao Wei was silent for a moment before he suddenly announced that. With that, he waved his hands and a cluster of Deep Freeze Dew appeared in the sky. As it hovered, one could not see its actual shape. It was like a mirage, but it was one of the magic treasures that Cao Wei carried along with him.

In that icy mist, one could see many tiny water droplets floating about, like tiny ice crystals. Those were the Deep Freeze Dew that Lin Feng has asked for.

"Now, would you wager?" Cao Wei looked at Lin Feng. Lin Feng sighed, did not say anything, as he hurled the Fire and Ice Fruit. It flew into the middle of the sky and hovered there.

Everyone thought that Lin Feng was out of tricks and that he had been forced into a corner by Cao Wei. No one knew that Lin Feng was actually laughing coldly in his heart right now.

"Betting against me? I'll make you lose your knickers."

He projected his voice to Yang Qing. "Silly, don't hesitate anymore. You don't need to use the new technique that I'd taught you now. With your mastery right now, defeating your opponent should not be hard."

"Remember, you are strong, stronger than you could possibly imagine."

Upon hearing Lin Feng's words, Yang Qing shivered. He turned his head to Lin Feng and nodded as he appeared to have calmed down.

The other Immortal Soul stage elders noticed this transformation. All of them muttered in awe, "Is this what they mean by people become more courageous with incentives? With the prospect of winning 100 drops of Deep Freeze Dew, this person manages to regain his fighting spirit?"

"Nope, that can't be it. This young man evidently slackened. It does not appear that he had become more determined. Could it be that the master of the Celestial Sect told them that losing is OK?"

Only Cao Wei's gaze shifted between Lin Feng and Yang Qing. He became uneasy.

Fang Zhong did not have this awareness. Looking at the Fire and Ice Fruit floating in the sky, his gaze blazed. "This item, it seems that it had been given to me for free!"

He looked at the Wang Lin and Yue Hongyan on the side of the Celestial Sect, laughed coldly and leapt into the Hidden Dragon Gorge.

Yang Qing took a deep breath and leapt into the Hidden Dragon Gorge too.

Within the gorge, it was a separate world. It was a world of mountains and river and truly a sight to behold.

Fang Zhong landed in a cluster of mountains. As he looked at Yang Qing, who was approaching, he smiled coldly before casting a spell. Around him, a blast of cold air began to rise as it slowly crept over the streams in the mountains, freezing them into ice cubes.

Outside, Xiao Budian looked at the projected image of the scene within the Gorge as he plucked his eyebrows. "Is it useful? Could Five Senior's Grand Moon Primordial Water not only possess mastery over water but ice too?"

Fang Zhong looked at Yang Qing and smiled, "I knew that you had fought in Shazhou. So how could I not know that you possess the Grand Moon Primordial Water? The problem is, while you could control ice and water, could you control fire?"

His spell changed and the ice changed into flickering, white-hot flames. However, this fire did not appear to possess any heat. Instead, it emitted a deep freeze.

This was the signature move of the Heaven Lake Sect, Icy Blaze.

With Fang Zhong's manipulation, the Icy Blaze turned into a freezing sea of white fire, surrounding Yang Qing.

The powerful force attracted the attention of everyone outside. All participating Foundation Establishment stage cultivators' faces

were solemn. While Fang Zhong had a big mouth, his power could not be denied.

He may appear wild and arrogant, but in actual fact, he had made an effort to understand each and every one of his opponents. He truly knew his enemies like himself.

Huo Chen, looking at this, mumbled, "For this Conference, Shi Shaoqian posed the greatest threat to me, then it's Yue Hongyan from the Celestial Sect of Wonders and finally, Fang Zhong..."

The few Immortal Soul stage cultivators, who were spectating the battle, too gave their comments with respect to Fang Zhong's prowess despite it being nothing compared to what they had achieved.

"For a Foundation Establishment stage cultivator, this is quite remarkable," said the Vivant Joy Holy Man as he stroked his chins. He looked at Cao Wei and said, "Congratulations Master Cao for obtaining such an exceptional talent."

Prince Xian's face did not change but he nodded in tacit agreement. As long as his old nemesis continued to attract talents, their feud could continue for a longer period.

"You are too kind, Vivant Joy Holy Man," Cao Wei looked at Lin Feng and said lightly, "Some stuff cannot be avoided."

Lin Feng, who was expressionless up till this moment, smiled. It

was like seeing the sun through the clouds. "I have the same sentiment."

Just as he said that, Yang Qing slammed his palms together in response to the sea of Icy Blaze that was surging towards him.

A ray of sparkling emerald-green water suddenly flew out from his side. It went straight for the sea of Icy Blaze.

The emerald-colored water disappeared, but the sea of Icy Blaze appeared to burn brighter and more ferociously as if it had devoured the emerald-colored water for nourishment.

However, Fang Zhong's expression changed. His face lost its color as if he had just seen a ghost.

In the next instant, the Icy Blaze began to run amok. It vibrated furiously before falling apart to nothing.

It was as if Fang Zhong had lost.

Everyone watching the battle was shocked as they could not understand what had happened. The sea of Icy Blaze, which blazed fiercely and strongly at the beginning, turned into a complete joke in the end.

No one else could understand the logic behind this, except for the few Immortal Soul stage cultivators. Cao Wei's face was dark like the night sky.

From his side, Lin Feng's clear voice echoed, "I thank you on behalf of my disciple for the 100 drops of Deep Freeze Dew."

Chapter 282: Who Can Fight In A Two-On-One Battle?

Under the glow of the limitless light from the Icy Blaze, Yang Qing's pale face appeared even more colorless. He was like a lone canoe in the middle of a raging sea; he appeared to be on the verge of being devored by the sea of fire.

Spectators of this match all believed that Fang Zhong would defeat Yang Qing in an instant, destroying the Celestial Sect of Wonders' claims that they were first amongst equals.

The few Immortal Soul stage elders naturally saw that Yang Qing had calmed himself down and that his skills were unordinary. However, none of them foresaw this outcome.

In the previous moment, Fang Zhong was brimming with power and ferocity as he manipulated his endless Icy Blaze, which surged like a demon towards Yang Qing.

In the next moment, his own Icy Blaze underwent an anomalous transformation as it disintegrated completely. It was just like an old saying, "The louder the thunder, the fewer the rain."

The other people thought that Fang Zhong had made an error in casting his spell. However, cultivators above the Aurous Core stage realized that Fang Zhong's Icy Blaze disintegrated solely due to Yang Qing's emerald-colored water.

After the sparkling emerald-colored water entered the Icy Blaze, it transformed into the shape of the Icy Blaze instead of merging or being devored by it. It only transformed into the shape of the Icy Blaze, but it was still being controlled by Yang Qing.

Strictly speaking, it was an imitation ability. One adopted the state of one's enemy.

After Yang Qing released his emerald-colored water, it did not simply take on its shape, but instead, it actually did turn into the Icy Blaze. It possessed the abilities of the Heaven Lake Sect's Icy Blaze down to the fault. It was truly a combination of both ice and fire.

"Could the emerald-colored water be the Grand Moon Primordial Water?" asked the Gambling Holy Man, shocked. "I only knew that the Grand Moon Primordial Water could control water. I didn't know that it possesses this ability too."

The Blue Pavilion Holy Man muttered quietly, "The Grand Moon Primordial Water will not sparkle. Perhaps it is related to it. It does possess the quality of the Grand Moon Primordial Water, but it had definitely undergone some form of secret cultivation to achieve its special abilities."

Looking at the scene before him, Lin Feng smiled without making a sound.

The Imperius Grand Moon Curse!

This was the spell that Yang Qing had invented after he understood the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams and then combined it with the Grand Moon Primordial Water.

Using the Grand Moon Primordial Water as a vassal, he injected the knowledge that he had obtained from the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams. After understanding the secrets of Creation, he finally managed to come up with the Imperius Grand Moon Curse.

Perfecting the spell still required the aid of Miao Shihao. After he understood the workings behind Miao Shihao's Mirror, Flower, Water and Moon Technique, particularly the Ray Reflecting Mirror and the One Heavenly Primordial Water, he was able to make great headway in mastering this spell.

By using his spell now, he used the Grand Moon Primordial Water to emulate the powers of his enemy's spell, and then he injected his own powers into his enemy's spell. Doing so messed up the spell of his enemy, causing it to collapse before him.

Under the right circumstances, it could overcome much stronger enemies while expending minimal effort.

Of course, there were still many shortcomings to the spell. For example, it must come into contact with his enemy's spell first for it to work. Hence, it was used primarily for defence and counter-attack.

Furthermore, it was a simple emulation. It could not understand

the principles behind his enemy's spell and thus could only imitate his enemy's power and form. He could not comprehend the deeper workings of his enemy's spell just from this.

However, Lin Feng saw huge potential in this. As Yang Qing's mastery increased, his understanding of the workings of the Tao would increase. If he could overcome the above-mentioned flaws, then he would truly become a prodigy.

Other than Lin Feng, other people also possessed such foresight and skill. Shi Zongyue looked at Lin Feng, and sighed, "Congratulations Master Lin on producing such an exceptional disciple."

"You are too kind, Prince Anliang." Lin Feng smiled. At that moment, Cao Wei snorted, "So this is what they mean by the commander of all waters? To me, it's more like the thief of all waters."

Hearing that, Lin Feng smiled slightly but he did not say anything.

At that moment, Yang Qing, having destroyed Fang Zhong's spell, took the chance to unleash his next spell.

The gurgling Grand Moon Primordial Water was like a ferocious flood. However, it was actually an improvement from the Flash Flood Mantra that Yang Qing had learnt during his Cloud Water Cave days. He now called it the Grand Moon Flash Flood Mantra. The principle was the same as it too required him to unleash his

mana in one go to destroy everything in his path.

Yang Qing was very clear as to what his weaknesses were. He lacked battling experiences, and his manipulation of his spells could not be said to be intuitive. Hence, controlling these two spells, the Grand Moon Flash Flood Mantra and the Imperius Grand Moon Curse, did not require very accurate spell manipulation.

Once he had to cast a spell, he would use all his powers to destroy his enemy in the quickest time possible. The faster he could achieve victory, the less amount of spells he had to cast and the fewer mistakes he would make. Hence, the chance that his enemy would catch upon his weak points would decrease.

Poor Fang Zhong! After he had lost with his Icy Blaze, he had just managed to regain enough composure to receive the next spell, but what he had to receive was a giant, cold splash from the Grand Moon Primordial Water.

If not for the protection of the Hidden Dragon Gorge, his entire being would have been swallowed by the Grand Moon Primordial Water and reduced to nothing.

Even with the protection, Fang Zhong now appeared unbelievably pathetic. The Grand Moon Primordial Water had affected his very foundation, and even his spiritual crucible was affected. This could affect his core-formation in the future.

Cao Wei looked at Lin Feng coldly as he said, "You are quite a

good actor. Was it your plan to appear weak to tempt me into making this bet? To think that a master like you would pull off such a dirty trick, aren't you afraid of being mocked?"

Lin Feng smiled gently, "From the very start, I believed that my disciple could emerge victorious. Some people, however, don't possess such wisdom. On their own initiative, they proposed a wager. Now that they have lost, they refuse to pay up."

"I wonder who's the laughing stock here."

Cao Wei stared at him for a long while before saying coldly, "Since I dare to bet, I have already made plans to admit defeat. Now that I've lost, I will definitely pay up."

He waved his hand as the 100 drops of Deep Freeze Dew in the sky emerged and landed before Lin Feng. With a flourish of his robes, Lin Feng took all of them away. On Cao Wei's side, only a few were left.

Yang Qing emerged from the Hidden Dragon Gorge with a pale face. He returned to Lin Feng's side, bowed and said, "I was lucky enough to avoid humiliation."

Lin Feng smiled, "This is exactly like what I've told you. You must always remember that you are indeed strong. Despite having a few weaknesses here and there, it cannot change the fact that you possess the right power. As long as you are willing to do it, you will be making yourself stronger."

Yang Qing smiled, and nodded his head, "I will remember to work hard."

Lin Feng waved his hand. "Go rest now. You've gotten additional rewards from this too."

Yang Qing smiled and turned his head to look at the rest. Xiao Budian and Zhu Yi both smiled and nodded. A smile appeared on Wang Lin's normally cold face too. Yue Hongyan flashed him a thumbs-up as she smiled as radiantly as a flower.

Yang Qing sighed and thought to himself, "I must work hard."

After a few more rounds of competition, the person who attracted the most attention of Shi Shaoqian. He did possess the right to be arrogant, for, in face of the cultivators from the Purple Clouds Sect who had experienced the thunder tribulations, he was able to defeat them easily. This proved to the spectators that he had not used all his powers.

The secret Imperial Script of the Crimson Dragon of the Great Qin Empire had been thoroughly understood by Shi Shaoqian. Hence, his powers appeared limitless.

Everyone from the Celestial Sect of Wonders who seen that felt a chill in their heart.

Lin Feng said slowly, "Everyone knew that the Great Zhou Empire is becoming stronger and stronger as it expands its

borders. However, the Great Qin Empire should not be underestimated too. Despite the squabbles between its many tribes, it's still one of the strongest forces in the Divine Lands."

"There are special characteristics in its spells. Your top contenders in the conference are Shi Xingyun and Shi Shaoqian."

After Shi Shaoqian stepped down from the battlefield, it was time for a Northern Tribe cultivator and a Huo Family cultivator fight. The victor, in the end, was the Northern Tribe cultivator, called Zhamu Zeluo.

After Zhamu Zeluo exited the Hidden Dragon Gorge, his dark face turned towards Huo Chen as he said arrogantly, "You are not the only sect to experience killings and death on a daily basis. Us members of the Northern Tribes too experienced carnage regularly. It's even more powerful than what you experienced down in the south."

Xiao Budian, upon hearing that, smiled and said, "This guy is not bad. I like." The rest of them smiled slightly, even Wang Lin.

Yue Hongyan looked at Lin Feng and said, "Master, I'll go."

The next round was her turn. However, her luck was the worst amongst the Celestial Sect disciples in the Foundation Establishment sect. In the first round, both Wang Lin and Yang Qing proceeded to the next without having to fight, whereas she had to face an opponent.

Now, in the second round, she had to face a couple from the Sun Moon Sword Sect

Yue Hongyan asked, "Master, shall I fight with Third Senior or Fifth Junior?"

"Neither," replied Lin Feng, shaking his head. He pointed to Zhuge Fengling with his finger and said, "You shall be fighting with her."

Yue Hongyan opened her eyes in shock. Xiao Budian and the rest too were taken aback as they stared at Lin Feng in shock.

Zhuge Fengling was the most shocked. Dazedly, she stuck out a finger and pointed to her nose. "Me?"

While she had never actually fought before, everyone knew in their heart her true abilities. They knew that Zhuge Fengling, who was in the Foundation Establishment stage, was not cut out for fighting. She did not like battling and her spells and powers were not that great.

Asking her to fight with Yue Hongyan was the equivalent of asking Yue Hongyan to fight the couple from the Sun Moon Sword Sect alone.

Zhu Yi's eyes flashed. "Master, when you suggested that the disciples of the Sun Moon Sword Sect could battle in pairs and that a pair could be present in the top 8 champions to enter the Ancient

Huanghai World, was it solely for this moment? So that we could bring Zhuge Fengling in?"

Lin Feng smiled and nodded his head. Xiao Budian asked curiously, "But why?"

He looked at Zhuge Fengling and asked, "What's the point? If it's to find treasures, then let's just bring the mouse along."

"My reason for doing so is not solely because of her. There are other reasons to it too," Lin Feng said, smiling. "Finding treasures would definitely require the help of the Gold-Digging Mouse, but she herself could be useful too."

Zhu Yi muttered, "However, how could we guarantee that we would meet a pair from the Sun Moon Sword Sect?"

Chapter 283: To Shirk One Needs Techniques Too

In a fair fight, there was no guarantee that one would meet the disciples of the Sun Moon Sword Sect.

Of course, under the insistence of the Sun Radiance Swordmaster, the Sun Moon Sword Sect took part in the competition in teams. However, they sent only four people, split into 2 groups and not 4 groups of 2.

To meet a pair of them would require quite a bit of luck.

However, Lin Feng had full faith in his disciples. Unless his luck was bad and his own disciples ended up meeting them beforehand, he was fairly confident that Wang Lin, Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing would enter the top 8.

As for fighting a couple from the Sun Moon Sword Sect, on a certain scale, one should be wary of their prowess. If both the Sun Moon Sword Sect and the Celestial Sect of Wonders entered the top 8, then the chance of them meeting would be very high.

As to why would they need to bring Zhuge Fengling into the Ancient Huanghai World, Lin Feng had his reasons. However, it was hard for outsiders to understand why as only he could gauge her potential.

Hence, only he knew that Zhuge Fengling possessed average stats

all-around, except for her Fortune Value, which was 9. She could be said to be a lucky charm.

Her ability to find so many treasures could be attributed to her Gold-Digging Rat, but it was inextricably linked to her Fortune Value.

While Zhu Yi, who had a max Fortune Value, would be personally going, Lin Feng knew that due to the sheer size of the Ancient Huanghai World he would need a second person with a high Fortune Value to truly make the trip count.

In other words, if they did not manage to encounter a pair from the Sun Moon Sword Sect, or that the Sun Moon Sword Sect was not powerful enough to enter the top 8, then Lin Feng did not lose much.

However, right now, it appeared that his luck was not bad. Yue Hongyan managed to get a chance to face off against the Sun Moon Sword Sect. At the same time, it was at the right round. As long as she could beat her opponent, she would be able to get one more slot.

Of course, this must be established on the basis that they could beat their opponents.

Lin Feng was extremely lucky that Yue Hongyan managed to get this slot. Asking Zhuge Fengling to fight along Yue Hongyan was the equivalent of asking Yue Hongyan to fight alone, and Lin Feng did not fully trust anyone else, like Yang Qing, to take up this task.

If it was either Wang Lin or Yue Hongyan, Lin Feng would be more at ease.

Lin Feng tried to encourage Yang Qing by telling him that he was actually very strong. That was true.

However, the word 'strong' had many connotations. It was ultimately a relative term.

While Yue Hongyan did not understand why Lin Feng asked her to bring along Zhuge Fengling, the word 'fear' had never appeared in her dictionary before. She nodded her head immediately, "I'll go right away."

She turned her head to look at Zhuge Fengling and said, "Stand behind me, take good care of yourself."

Zhuge Fengling forced out a smile. "Of course, of course." Her Gold-Digging Rat scratched nonchalantly at her shoulder as it communicated to her telepathically, "Fengling, let's not fight, please? The Sun Moon Sword Sect is no joke."

"Can, why not? How about you go before Master Lin and tell him that? He'll surely agree." Zhuge Fengling replied.

The Gold-Digging Rat wiggled its ears. "Fengling, how about we escape while we have the chance. If we continue to hang around here, it's gonna be very dangerous."

Zhuge Fengling was silent for a long while. "Let's see, shall we? If we actually did get into the Ancient Huanghai World, there's bound to be many goodies within it."

"You are choosing money over life!" sighed the Gold-Digging Rat.

Lin Feng sent the two of them into the Hidden Dragon Gorge as he thought, "If you have something, use it to the best of your abilities. Only then can you avoid wastage."

The other members of the Celestial Sect of Wonders were all stunned as they looked at Yue Hongyan and Zhuge Fengling preparing for battle. They all thought that Yue Hongyan's natural partner would be either Wang Lin or Yang Qing.

However, after Yang Qing completely owned the previous battle, no one dared to underestimate the disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders anymore. Everyone observed silently, as they tried to find out what's so special about Zhuge Fengling.

Zhuge Fengling was silently cursing the whole affair in her heart. She almost wanted to die.

"Is this one of the Celestial Sect master's immediate disciple?" The Sun Radiance Swordmaster's eyes flashed. With his mastery, he grasped the true extent of her power immediately.

Lin Feng shook his head and replied, "Nope, strictly speaking, she

is only an unofficial disciple of mine."

The Sun Radiance Swordmaster smiled, "Just now, Master Cao and Master Lin had a bet. That piqued my curiosity. I was wondering if I could make a bet with you too, Master Lin?"

Lin Feng smiled, "Everyone is learning from the Gambling Holy Man today."

Shi Zongyue and the Blue Pavilion Holy Man smiled. Zhuge Guang himself laughed the loudest as he accepted his moniker proudly. He smiled, "Now that you mentioned it, I too am feeling the itch for a wager."

"Don't blame us, Gambling Holy Man," laughed the Sun Radiance Holy Man. He looked at Lin Feng and said, "The wager I am having with Master Lin too shall be contingent upon the result of the battle between our disciples. I hope Master Lin wouldn't mind the collateral I am offering."

He flicked his finger as a golden ray of light flew into the sky. It resembled a tiny sun in its brightness.

"The Sun Essence Stone?" Lin Feng looked at the tiny stone as he recognized it immediately. "You are very generous, Sun Radiance Swordmaster."

The Sun Essence Stone and the Moon Luster Stone were the two most valuable treasures of the Sun Moon Sword Sect. The former

possessed the purest powers of the sun while the latter accumulated the purest powers of the moon.

In the world today, the two objects that possessed the strongest powers of the sun were the Sun Essence Stone and the Grand Sun Primordial Flame. However, in comparison to the intensity of the Grand Sun Primordial Flame, the Sun Essence Stone was much gentler and better apt for cultivators.

Under normal circumstances, a Sun Essence Stone was only about as big as a grain of rice. However, with just a tiny bit of Sun Essence Stone, the spiritual energy within it was sufficient for a Foundation Establishment stage cultivator. For an Aurous Core stage cultivator to absorb all of its powers, it too would take some time.

Regardless of Lin Feng's intentions, his suggestion that the Sun Moon Sword Sect could fight in pairs had benefitted the Sun Moon Sword Sect. The Sun Radiance Swordmaster too would reciprocate, and hence he suggested the wager. He made the bet, not out of anger, but out of sheer curiosity as to the amount of trust Lin Feng had in Yue Hongyan.

Lin Feng understood his intentions immediately, and hence he did not try to cheat the Sun Radiance Swordmaster. He waved his hands, and a black piece of metal flew out and hovered in the air. It was the Matte Glowless Metal.

The Matte Glowless Metal was one of the Six Mythical Metals and was the best material to forge the flying sword. By adding just a tiny bit of it while one was forging the flying sword, the power of

the flying sword would increase to a next level, possessing extraordinary abilities.

For a sword cultivator, this was an immensely valuable object. This collateral was greatly pleasing to the Sun Radiance Swordmaster. Both collaterals were of the same value.

Lin Feng said, "It shall be the same as before. Our disciples will get our collaterals."

The Sun Radiance Swordmaster nodded, "Of course."

After the two sides had come to an agreement over their collateral, Yue Hongyan and Zhuge Fengling entered the Hidden Dragon Gorge. Their opponents, a boy and a girl and brimming with energy, were there already.

Like all sword cultivators, the disciples of the Sun Moon Sword Sect were extremely sharp. Both the male disciple, Li Bingqing, and the female disciple, Zou Yuhua, were like two swords that had left their scabbards.

After Zhuge Fengling entered the Hidden Dragon Gorge, she ran and hid in one corner without any prompting from Yue Hongyan.

She wanted to enter the Ancient Huanghai World, but to do so she must enter that they could win the battle before their eyes right now. Zhuge Fengling believed her role was to not hinder Yue Hongyan. That was the best she could do.

In such a match-up, she could only pray that her partner was competent.

Looking at her behavior, a look of approval appeared on Yue Hongyan's face. After Zhuge Fengling had disappeared, she did not say much. She rushed for Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua, raising her Black Ember Pole-Ax.

Looking at this scene, both Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua were unsettled. Zou Yuhua asked hesitantly, "Could that girl be planning an ambush?"

Li Bingqing said, "Be alert, for all you know she specially cultivates a spell that would allow her to disappear and ambush others."

As for Yue Hongyan, the two of them were not that concerned. This was not because they underestimated her, but for them to reach their current stage today they definitely had some confidence in themselves.

Li Bingqing roared as he unveiled his sect's Sun Radiance Sword Manual. He slashed out with his sword, brimming with radiance. His entire body appeared to have morphed into the sun as tens of thousands of sun rays sliced their way towards Yue Hongyan.

Zou Yuhua, however, took a step back as she revealed her Lunar Glow Sword Manual. Her body shimmered and became translucent, like the clouds in the night sky. Only a few specks of

white sword radiance remained.

Their technique relied on Li Bingqing to lead the attack while Zou Yuhua assisted. However, the true plan was for Li Bingqing to distract the opponent while Zou Yuhua struck out from the shadows, inflicting a much more lethal blow.

This time, it was the same. However, Zou Yuhua was more careful as she silently tried to guard against Zhuge Fengling, awaiting an ambush at any time.

Her movement was observed by everyone. Most people agreed with her actions as they believed that her priority was not a quick victory but to ward against any potential attacker. She appeared to have thought out her plans carefully.

However, in the eyes of Xiao Budian and the rest, it was utterly hilarious.

Everyone around them too smiled slightly. Lin Feng shook his head and laughed, "Indeed, to shirk one needs techniques too."

He turned his head to the Sun Radiance Swordmaster, who returned his gaze and laughed bitterly while shaking his head, "They really have no idea what they're doing."

Chapter 284: Attracting Everyone's Attention

The disciples of the Sun Moon Sword Sect fell into confusion.

For their pairing, Li Bingqing's Sun Radiance Sword Manual focused on offence while Zou Yuhua's Lunar Glow Sword Manual focused on hiding in one corner and complementing Li Bingqing. While Li Bingqing distracted the opponents, she would strike.

Normally, when they fought, Li Bingqing would always be focused on offence while she would search for an opportune moment.

However, the actions of Yue Hongyan and Zhuge Fengling were too similar to theirs. Hence, this caused Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua to believe that they were adopting the same strategy as theirs.

Hence, while the two of them received Yue Hongyan's attacks, they devoted a bit of their attention to their surroundings too to prevent against any attack by Zhuge Fengling.

While they knew that Zhuge Fengling's mastery was only in the early stages of Foundation Establishment, both Wang Lin and Yang Qing had demonstrated that the battling abilities of disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders could not be determined solely based on their mastery.

Hence, what exactly was Zhuge Fengling doing right now?

In forests in the valleys, Zhuge Fengling sat cross-legged under a big tree. She tried to rescind all of her Qi as she knew that her two opponents were in the late Foundation Establishment stage. She was scared that if she released just a tiny bit of Qi, she would be discovered.

With Zhuge Fengling's understanding, in a two-versus-two fight, their opponents would eliminate the weak link before moving on to the stronger one.

Hence, with full awareness of her inadequacy, Zhuge Fengling carefully concealed herself. Her biggest fear was being discovered and eliminated by her opponents.

"Gold, I have now stopped my Qi and my entire being has entered hibernation and stopped emitting even the smallest of mana. They would not sense any hostility from me, not even my body temperature! In such a state, I would not be discovered, right?" Zhuge Fengling said gleefully to her Gold-Digging Mouse.

The Gold-Digging Mouse lay on her shoulder, as its two normally-perky ears too became floppy. It too was trying to rescind its Qi.

After it received Zhuge Fengling's telepathic message, it said harshly, "Shh, Fengling, the opponents' mastery is way higher than ours. It's best that we don't even communicate at all."

Zhuge Fengling too became serious as she said, "You're right, I am too careless."

With that, she stopped communication with the Gold-Digging Rat as she concentrated on pretending that she was like a lifeless rock or a dead log.

Doing so ensured that Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua could not find her. Zou Yuhua became panicky. "I cannot detect anything from her. Where exactly did she hide? We too still must deal with Yue Hongyan's attack. If I could concentrate on finding her, I am sure I could find her."

Out of the Hidden Dragon Gorge, Xiao Budian and Tun Tun guffawed as they looked at Zhuge Fengling, who was trying to conceal herself, and the Sun Moon Sword Sect couple who were on high alert.

Wang Lin's mouth twitched, "This could be counted as a survival strategy too?"

Yang Qing said demurely, "This could be a form of restraint."

"Yes, yes," said Zhu Yi as he turned around and his shoulders trembled slightly.

More and more people realized what was actually happening as many suppressed laughter could be heard. The elders from the Sun Moon Sword Sect looked at the projected image from within the

Gorge with dark faces.

"These two idiots!" The cultivators from the Sun Moon Sword Sect were almost desperate to enter the Gorge.

A few Nascent Soul stage elders actually wanted to rush into Gorge and shake Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua by their sleeves and tell them, "You ret*ards! The person you were guarding against is a just a weak rookie!"

"With this logic, you two are rookie beyond rookie!"

The Sun Radiance Swordmaster's expression did not do much, but a grimace appeared on his face. "We deserve to be taken as jokes."

The older Immortal Soul stage cultivators comforted him, "There, there, it's just an error in judgement."

Within the Hidden Dragon Gorge, Zou Yuhua was still trying to Zhuge Fengling. Li Bingqing was almost succumbing to Yue Hongyan's attacks.

As Yue Hongyan's pole-ax flew in the air, her attacks became more and more ferocious. Her entire body appeared to have morphed into a ball of fire, as it tried to incinerate Li Bingqing's sun-shaped sword radiance.

Zou Yuhua became increasingly frustrated. "Scr*w it! If you are

not coming up, then we shall take advantage of our superior numbers and settle this fierce b*tch first."

"To save your ally, you must fight us. If you ally were defeated, then there's not much that you could do. Let's see if you are still going to hide."

A pale-white sword radiance suddenly shone. It was like seeing the moon after the clouds cleared at night.

Zou Yuhua finally took the initiative and attacked. Using her Lunar Glow Sword Manual and working in conjunction with Li Bingqing's Sun Radiance Sword Manual, they went straight for Yue Hongyan together.

Li Bingqing's Sun Radiance Sword Manual had been pushed to its extremes. Numerous golden sword radiances rained down upon Yue Hongyan as they trapped her within it.

Yue Hongyan's eyebrows arched, as she discovered that within the rain of golden radiance there were some faint white radiances within them too.

The white sword radiances flickered. While there were no more than 10 of them, their power made her worried, particularly those that were embedded in the golden sword radiances. They changed constantly and were highly unpredictable, magnifying their prowess by a factor of 10.

Everyone out of the Gorge watching the battle ceased laughing. Everyone stared intently at the scene as they thought, "The team battling capabilities of the Sun Moon Sword Sect is truly formidable."

Every single Foundation Establishment stage cultivator asked himself, "If I go up against them, could I win?"

After thinking about that carefully, many of them shook their heads.

At that moment, they felt ashamed for having mocked Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua earlier on.

The disciples of the Sun Moon Sword Sect, on the other hand, were looking on gleefully.

Within the Hidden Dragon Gorge, such an all-encompassing move would be a sure-kill. The enormous amount of pressure crushed onto Yue Hongyan's lungs. She could not inhale, nor could she exhale. Death slowly crept up on her.

Under such a huge pressure, however, Yue Hongyan maintained her smile.

With that smile, an indomitable spirit cloaked Yue Hongyan's body. She roared into the sky as her entire body flew up into the air. Instead of retreating, she rushed towards the Sun Moon Sword Sect couple, preparing to kill.

No matter how many of you were there, I'd kill you! I'd kill you all!

The Black Ember Pole-Ax danced in the air so quickly till it became just a whirl as it shook apart the tempest-like golden sword radiances.

The immensely powerful pole-ax, when spinning, would change occasionally as it became unpredictable. As it made numerous cuts through the air, it formed the shape of a huge net. Accurately, it managed to capture every single one of Zou Yuhua's unpredictable white sword radiance, as if they were birds stuck in a net.

Yue Hongyan demonstrated both types of pole-ax wielding techniques: the extremely aggressive one and the extremely cunning one. Using both techniques, combined with her innate prowess, Yue Hongyan moved to receive the next few moves from the Sun Moon Sword Sect couple.

The Dual Swords of the Sun and Moon. While the Sun Radiance Sword Manual focused on aggression, the Lunar Glow Sword Manual focused on cunning. Together, they were a blend of both.

At that moment, however, Yue Hongyan was alone. With her pole-ax, she was able to display both aggression and cunning. She was in no way inferior to them.

Prince Xian of the Left of the Northern Tribes stared at the scene till his eyes bulged as he exclaimed, "With her current mastery,

truly incredible!"

He turned his head to look at Lin Feng. "Master Lin, your female disciple is truly exceptional in terms of martial prowess."

If an Immortal Soul stage elder like him was impressed, what else was there to be said for the rest? Every other cultivator viewing the fight fixated their gaze on Yue Hongyan.

At that moment, the red-haired young girl was like the sun and moon in the sky. She was at the center of the spotlight.

The scion of the Great Qin Empire, Shi Shaoqian, looked at her with an intense gaze as he nodded constantly throughout.

While she was at the center of everyone's admiration, how could Yue Hongyan be always forced into a defensive position? She coughed and started spinning. She gave off a gust of wind that was not entirely like wind, a red ball of fog that was not entirely like fog, as a red light flashed around her.

The Immortal Soul stage elders viewing the battle were all shocked. "The Avici Infernal Gale?"

Once the Avici Infernal Gale appeared, Yue Hongyan began to brim with energy and force. The Avici Infernal Gale combined with the black flames around her body to form a red shining gale of an inferno. Its killing powers were astounding as it counter-attacked Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua.

While their original attack had been blocked, Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua were not worried. Regardless, they were a team of two. If they were in a stalemate and had to fight a battle of attrition, they would surely win.

Furthermore, maintaining a defensive stance for long would surely lead to slip-ups. They did not believe that Yue Hongyan was perfect.

However, in that moment, when Yue Hongyan's Avici Infernal Gale appeared, Li Bingqing's and Zou Yuhua's faces changed color. Combining the powers of the Avici Infernal Gale, Yue Hongyan became powerful beyond measure. With her counter-attack, she became a force that the two of them could not deal with.

The two of them said in unison, "Combine the powers of the sun and moon, both Yin and Yang shall be maximized!"

The brilliant golden sword radiance and the pure white sword radiance combined in one entity, as it turned into a bright, light gold-colored sword radiance.

This sword radiance brimmed with power, just like how a flame grew after being fanned by the wind. The powers of both Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua burst forth and complemented each other. There appeared to be no cap to their powers.

The principle within it was similar to Xiao Budian's Infinite Thunderstorm.

Lin Feng, who was watching the battle, nodded his head. In this moment, the Sun Moon Sword Sect couple finally revealed their true powers. The combined powers of these two Foundation Establishment stage cultivators exceeded even the powers of an Arous Core stage cultivator.

An Arous Core stage cultivator from the Sun Moon Sword Sect, naturally, could not be beaten by any random independent cultivator.

The powers of Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua already exceeded the powers of the early Arous Core stage cultivator Wang Jiannan, whom Yue Hongyan had defeated on top of the Xingyun Peak.

However, Yue Hongyan now was more powerful than before.

The wild Avici Infernal Gale combined with the mana from Yue Hongyan's late Foundation Establishment stage, causing her Black Ember Pole-Ax to reach the pinnacle of its powers. It turned into a giant, churning storm, with a black hole at its center.

From within the black hole, a powerful force of attraction could be felt. It was almost as if the entire world was going to collapse into the black hole.

Chapter 285: Truly Unrivalled

The Space-Destroying Spear Technique.

After Yue Hongyan understood her techniques better with the help of the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams, she came up with the Space-Destroying Spear Technique. Together with her Avici Infernal Gale, she became unstoppable.

Even if Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua fought together, they were unable to match her. The Aurous Core stage light gold sword radiance was immediately destroyed upon contact with the Space-Destroying Spear Technique.

Facing a devastating blow that tore space apart, the Hidden Dragon Gorge decided to react. It helped the pale and ashen-faced Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua to block Yue Hongyan's spear. In that moment, victory had already been decided.

Yue Hongyan fought with a numerical disadvantage and yet, she managed to overcome the Sun Moon Sword Sect couple.

The battle by the Sea of the Northern Wind made Yue Hongyan famous throughout the lands. Everyone knew her as a rare prodigy and a rising star in the new generation.

At that moment, the power of disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders too was demonstrated.

They were invincible against opponents in the same stage. They could not be beaten one-on-one, and now it appeared that they could not be beaten even if they were up against numerous opponents.

The people watched Yue Hongyan emerged from the Hidden Dragon Gorge with complex expressions. However, she herself did not appear very excited. Her expression was as per normal. The only thing she did was to rejoin her group, bowed to Lin Feng and said, "Master."

Lin Feng nodded his head. "Good job."

Yue Hongyan smiled. In that smile, her cold facial expression suddenly became a lot warmer.

Xiao Budian patted Zhuge Fengling's shoulder and said jokingly, "You did well too, even though we knew that it was not deliberate."

Zhuge Fengling was a bit taken aback. Previously, she concealed all of her Qi, fearing detection by her enemies. Naturally, she was unable to observe the actions of Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua.

However, she reacted quickly and said, "It was all Sister Hongyan's efforts."

It was obvious she that she was sucking up to Yue Hongyan. If one were to actually take into account their respective ages, she was actually slightly older than Yue Hongyan.

"While your role was primarily as a cheerleader, you were a decent cheerleader by any standard," said Lin Feng, smiling and shaking his head. He thought to himself, "However, Hongyan was truly powerful. The final battle demonstrated quite clearly that even if Zhuge Fengling did not manage to make her opponents panic, Hongyan would still have been able to subdue them."

On the other hand, the Sun Radiance Swordmaster said in a dignified manner, "Master Lin's disciples are truly talented and exceptional."

With that, he was willing to pay up the collateral for the bet. He passed the Sun Essence Stone to Lin Feng. Lin Feng accepted the Sun Essence Stone, and smiled, "Honestly speaking, this was mainly due to luck. If my disciple did not know about the Avici Infernal Gale, then there was still a chance that she might lose."

The Sun Radiance Swordmaster shook his head and sighed, "Even so, it was a two-versus-one battle. This is rather disappointing for my Sun Moon Sword Sect."

Prince Anliang of the Great Qin Empire looked at Lin Feng and said slowly, "The Grand Sun Primordial Flame, the Nefarious Spectral Primordial Fire, the Grand Moon Primordial Water and the Avici Infernal Gale. The disciples of Master Lin are truly like hidden dragons and crouching tigers."

"Prince Anliang is too kind," Lin Feng smiled slightly. He did not explain any further.

Many times, it was better to not let one's enemies gauge the depth of one's powers.

Lin Feng swept through the elders with his gaze. Suddenly, his heart twitched. He realized that Cao Wei of the Heaven Lake Sect fixated his glance on Xiao Budian. His expression was solemn as he was about to say something.

Almost as if he felt Lin Feng's gaze, Cao Wei quietly turned his gaze away towards the Hidden Dragon Gorge. In the next battle between disciples, his Heaven Lake Sect would be going up.

Lin Feng thought, "What is this guy planning?"

In the next round, other than the disciples from the Heaven Lake Sect, a couple from the Sun Moon Sword Sect was taking part too.

Lin Feng then tapped Xiao Budian, who was still fooling around with Zhuge Fengling and said, half-scolding and half-laughing, "Little b*stard, watch carefully. When you go against other Aurous Core stage disciples, you would surely meet the Sun Moon Sword Sect."

"Don't blame me for not warning you that the disciples of the Sun Moon Sword become more powerful as their mastery increases. It's not due solely to an improvement in their personal power, but also because the longer they trained together, the closer they become and they better they can complement each other with their sword techniques."

Lin Feng pointed to Yue Hongyan. "Previously, Hongyan's battle served as a good example."

Xiao Budian shook his head and smiled, "Relax, master. I watched Fourth Senior's battle very carefully."

He looked at Yue Hongyan and said, "Actually, the best way to deal with disciples from the Sun Moon Sword Sect would be to break them apart. Then, they would be no concern."

"Fourth Senior surely understood this logic, but she chose not to do it."

Yue Hongyan smiled and said nothing. She knew that the best way to counter-attack was indeed to break them apart. However, due to personal reasons, she decided to confront them up-front.

As the disciples were discussing intently, the battle within the Hidden Dragon Gorge grew with intensity.

In comparison to the Celestial Sect's strategy of letting Zhuge Fengling shirk while Yue Hongyan went up against two enemies, the team from the Heaven Lake Sect treated the battle a lot more seriously. Other than the main member, his teammate was not bad too. Her teammate was someone who had lost in the earlier round.

At that moment, however, the main star of the show was not him. Neither was it the couple from the Sun Moon Sword Sect. It

was the Heaven Lake Sect disciple who had drawn the stick.

She managed to receive more than half of the Sun Moon Sword Sect's couple's moves, demonstrating that her powers were considered the top few in her tier.

Coincidentally, she too was a female like Yue Hongyan.

With Lin Feng's current mastery, he realized straight away that this female was like Yue Hongyan. She was no older than 20, but already in the later phase of the Foundation Establishment stage. Her powers could have been said to be exceptional and prodigious.

"I remember, her name was Dao Yuting," thought Lin Feng suddenly. His heart jolted. "This surname is rare."

Thinking about that, Lin Feng gazed over to the Great Qin Empire's side. In the back of the team stood a group of middle-aged cultivators. They did not appear to be contestants, but rather cultivators from Great Qin who were in charge of reception.

Very easily, Lin Feng found Dao Zhiqiang.

At that moment, Dao Zhiqiang's expression was normal. He looked at the battle within the Hidden Dragon Gorge with a standard expression, occasionally impressed. It was as if he was looking solely at the fight.

However, what he was thinking in his heart was under Lin Feng's

observation. At that moment, he realized that Dao Zhiqiang's fists were trembling. This showed that he was not at ease. He was evidently controlling his emotions.

Lin Feng thought, "This would be interesting."

As predicted, the Heaven Lake Sect had some draconian rules in place. One of them was to sever all ties with the outside world through murder.

The sect devoted a massive amount of effort in recruiting exceptional kids. If they found orphans, then it's not that bad. However, if they found kids with parents or relatives, the sect would secretly murder all of their living relations.

"Just as I predicted, the relationship between Dao Zhiqiang and Dao Yuting isn't so simple." Numerous thoughts floated in Lin Feng's mind. "Perhaps he managed to escape being killed by the Heaven Lake Sect. His will is strong and he is probably not satisfied with the current arrangement."

Lin Feng decided to observe more closely. He realized the resemblance between Dao Zhiqiang and Dao Yuting.

However, at that moment, Dao Yuting's expression was severe, cold and expressionless. While it was still elegant, it was cloaked with a dark, killing aura. Her lips were pale and bloodless.

Not only did her mastery exceed that of her partner, she was

superior to even Fang Zhong, who was defeated by Yang Qing earlier on. The many spells of the Heaven Lake Sect all appeared even more intense on her hands.

Here, Lin Feng understood. Dao Yuting was the true ace card of the Heaven Lake Sect in this Spiritual Conference of Huanghai. Not only must she emerge as one of the top 8, she had the responsibility to clinch one of the top rankings.

While her power was exceptional, Lin Feng observed that only his disciples and Shi Shaoqian could confidently win Dao Yuting. As for the rest, he wasn't too optimistic about their chances.

Indeed, the Sun Moon Sword Sect met with a tragic fate again. Originally, they thought that by fighting in pairs they would finally be able to clinch a decisive advantage over their opponents. Who could have foreseen that the two pairs of Sun Moon Sword Sect disciples were completely eliminated in the semi-final rounds

When Dao Yuting exited the Hidden Dragon Gorge, the Heaven Lake Sect greeted her with thunderous applause. As everyone else looked at her with admiration, everyone knew that the victory of the Heaven Lake Sect was 70% owed to her efforts.

Such a good news naturally spawned rumors and stories. People already began to compare Dao Yuting with Yue Hongyan. Both of them were able to defeat the couples from the Sun Moon Sword Sect. Both of them were exceptional. Both of them reached the later stages of Foundation Establishment before 20. Both of them were beauties.

One of them had scarlet hair like fire, while the other wore snow-white robes.

Looking at this, Lin Feng shook his head and laughed, "This is truly a chaotic scene. Everyone is really trying to hype up the atmosphere."

Yue Hongyan did not care much for these. She was fixated on the next pairings.

Wang Lin, Yang Qing, Yue Hongyan, Shi Shaoqian of the Great Qin Empire, Dao Yuting of the Heaven Lake Sect, Huo Chen of the Huo Family, Zhamu Zeluo of the Northern Tribes and a young disciple of the Purple Clouds Sect emerged as top 8.

At this point, everyone's opinions of the Celestial Sect of Wonders had changed.

Three of them took part in the competition and all three were ranked top 8. Amongst the 8 spots, the Celestial Sect of Wonders occupied 3 of them. They were truly impressive.

While Wang Lin and Yang Qing managed to get past the first round without having to face any opponent, but they performed exceedingly well in battles. Everyone now saw how powerful the Celestial Sect was.

This also made them anticipate the pairings.

The disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders focused all their attention on the Vivant Joy Holy Man's bronze bottle.

The Vivant Joy Holy Man shook the bronze bottle and two name slips fell out. One of them belonged to the rising star Dao Yuting. Interestingly, her opponent was a cultivator from the Royal House of the Northern Tribes, Zhamu Zeluo.

The Heaven Lake Sect against the Royal House of the Northern Tribes. Two sworn enemies.

Cao Wei and Prince Xian looked at each other. Lin Feng could almost feel sparks coming out from their gaze.

The Vivant Joy Man smiled bitterly as he ignored them. He took out the next name slip, looked at it, and said slowly, "Yue Hongyan from the Celestial Sect of Wonders."

Chapter 286: The Luckiest Draw Ever

"Coming up next, second match of the third round! Yue Hongyan from the Celestial Sect of Wonders against Yang Qing from the Celestial Sect of Wonders!"

The crowd murmured, all eyes on the stage. Some were predicting the outcome of the match while others gloated and glared at members of the Celestial Sect of Wonders.

Is this the price to pay for glamour and glory?

In the quarter finals, Celestial Sect of Wonders filled three out of eight slots, putting immense pressure on the other participants.

Lin Feng's camp expressed a bitter smile, especially Yang Qing.

Xiao Budian glanced at Lin Feng and whispered, "Master, did someone set us up?"

"No. It's really just our luck" replied Lin Feng blatantly, shaking his head.

Lin Feng was familiar with this sort of trickery and rigging. Even though he was certain that the Qin Emperor would not resort to such means, he still kept an eye on Vivant Joy Holy Man and Shi Zongyue.

After all, Celestial Sect of Wonders had displayed supremacy in the Foundation Establishment Stage competition, making it almost an in-house practice.

But it was proven, that Shi Zongyue and the other immortal soul elders were transparent, notwithstanding the various opinions of the aurous core stage and nascent soul stage warriors.

It was pure coincidence that these two met in the quarter finals. Besides, a three out of eight would give a rather high probability of meeting in the quarters.

That said, not everyone was discontented with the draw. The Royal House of the Northern Tribes and the Heaven Lake Sect definitely were not disappointed.

"The draw cannot be better!" cheered the two gloating sects in unison.

Zhamu Zeluo glared murderously at Dao Yuting.

She, donning white robes with hair let down until her shoulders, maintained her icy cold expression until she felt Zhamu Zeluo's invasive stare, and expressed her enmity.

Shi Shaogan was called shortly after, his opponent being the fighter who wore purple robes. Both of them looked lost at first, but Shi Shaogan regained his composure shortly.

The opponent in purple seemed bent on winning. In the previous round, Shi Shaogan stood in his way before the quarter finals, ultimately defeating him. This time, he was all out for revenge.

Six, out of eight names, had been called out. The final and remaining draw was clear to all based on elimination.

Wang Lin lowered his head and let out a cold grin.

"In the final and last match of the quarter finals! Wang Lin of Celestial Sect of Wonders against Huo Chen of the Huo Family!"

Both parties stared at each other, with each side beaming with the intent to win.

"The draw cannot be better indeed" both muttered at the same time.

Nearby the group of immortal god elders, Prince Xian of the Left from the northern tribes and Cao Wei, head of the Heaven Lake Sect took their place.

"Cao Wei, please don't say that I'm bullying you. I'll bet a piece of Polar metal. Are you up for it?" mocked Prince Xian of the Left. Shots were fired at the first instant, and Prince Xian of the Left's target was Cao Wei immediately.

"I'm just afraid that you will not pay up after you lose! If you're so keen on losing, I'll gladly let you lose! What say you wager your

Snow Tassel?" mocked Cao Wei.

"So full of yourself?" replied Prince Xian of the Left. "In return, if you lose I demand your Ice Mirror"

Zhuge Guang, who was standing at one side, suddenly added, "Prince Xian of the Left, that's rather demanding"

Prince Xian of the Left bellowed, "He has already lost all his Ice Ember, and I don't have time to wait for ten years for him to harvest more!"

"The bet is on" commented Cao Wei, his gaze switching from Lin Feng to Prince Xian of the Left.

Lin Feng, who had been lying low during the altercation, thought to himself, "What an underhanded fellow Prince Xian of the Left is. Despite his burly stature, he's secretly quite the scheming fox, rubbing salt onto Cao Wei's wound and driving the wedge between us two"

Be it the Ice Mirror or Ice Amber, both were precious rare items that already exceeded the previous quantity in the bet between Lin Feng and Sun Radiance Swordmaster.

In monetary value, this wager was no less than the hundred pieces of Ice Amber that Lin Feng had won.

Dao Yuting and Zhamu Zeluo entered the ring and were

immediately evenly matched. No one could determine who was superior.

Those outside the ring were quickly immersed in the fight. However, in a fight between beauty and the beast, more audience, especially the young men, supported Dao Yuting.

Lin Feng looked back at his disciples and thought, "why haven't my students woken up yet?"

But on further inspection, each of them had their reasons.

Xiao Budian was out of the picture. To be harsh, he was still not fully independent. He had spent most of his time and effort on this supposedly sacred career.

For Wang Lin, apart from training, all he did was train. His peers gave him so much pressure that he had no time to think about personal issues.

Yang Qing carried too much of a burden, becoming an emotional wreckage over his lost junior.

The most normal and perhaps most carefree of them all was Zhu Yi. But although he appeared polite and gentlemanly, he was in fact proud and full of himself. No woman ever came close to his requirements.

Lin Feng shook his head and thought "You punks, need I worry

about your relationships? Yang Qing aside, the other three should have no problems given their calibre and women should be flocking towards them!"

Lin Feng's mind was still on his disciples though his eyes remained on the fighting ring. Shortly, things in the ring began to stir.

Dao Yuting's body gave off an icy cold white mist, and the mist, once in contact with Zhamu Zeluo, burst into flames.

Zhamu Zeluo was an exemplar of the northern warriors. His body was beyond strong, all his training and magic had been focused on his physical strength. Not even Dao Yuting's previous ice attacks could penetrate his hide of an exterior.

This time, his body was thoroughly on fire. No matter how he tried, he could not extinguish the flames. His anguish was pertinent and plastered all over his face.

The audience began to stir, those who knew martial arts murmured among themselves, "Isn't this the Ice Burn technique from the Heaven Lake Sect?"

"The Ice Burn technique is one only mastered by the Nascent Soul Stage masters of the Heaven Lake Sect. Not even the Aurous Core Stage warriors can perform it yet. And yet, she, only at the Foundation Establishment Stage, can already grasp all of it? Unbelievable!"

"Genius! Absolute genius! What a rare sight!"

The whole audience flew mad with excitement. Even the immortal god elders who were sitting at one side, despite being at a much higher level than Dao Yuting, started paying attention to her. It was more her potential than actual power that attracted them.

Prince Xian of the Left's expression turned a pale green and he exclaimed, "Cao Wei! It's your lucky day today!"

Cao Wei could not be bothered.

Inside the ring, the normally composed and expressionless Zhamu Zeluo started to flinch at the burns that grew in intensity.

Dao Yuting did not let up and continued her stream of vicious attacks, knocking Zhamu Zeluo to the ground. The magical fighting ring instinctively blocked Dao's next attack, though the burning on Zhamu Zeluo continued.

Zhamu Zeluo had been defeated and exited the ring. Only then, in a forceful wave by Prince Xian of the Left, did the fire extinguish and the burning come to a stop. Zhamu Zeluo's skin sizzled like water poured on hot coal.

Zhu Yi inquisitively looked at Lin Feng and asked, "Master, what on earth is this Ice Burn technique?"

Lin Feng calmly replied, "The white mist that she's letting out catches fire once it latches onto the magical aura let out by her opponents. It's using their own power as fuel."

"The fighters from the Royal House of the Northern Tribes all pump their magic power into their physical body, strengthening themselves. Therefore this aura exits all around them, and ignites their body once in contact with that mist"

"Since it uses magic aura as its fuel, it's almost impossible to extinguish. This Ice Burn technique is practically Heaven Lake Sect's counter to all of the Royal House of the Northern Tribe's fighters who pump magic into their bodies"

"It is precisely because of its lethality that it's such a revered technique within the Heaven Lake Sect"

Yang Qing replied softly, "It must have its weakness too, am I right?"

Wang Lin thought about it for a moment, and added, "For one, this technique is difficult to master. As the elder mentioned earlier, only those in Nascent Soul Stage are supposedly able to handle it. I've observed that the mist spreads rather slowly, so anyone with ample preparation should be able to evade the mist"

Xiao Budian interjected, "The big burly guy from the northern tribes kept on moving in for close combat because he did not expect this mist from his opponent, as a result causing him to be unable to evade it"

"If he had known about it earlier, he would have kept his distance from the start. Given his speed, it would be no problem for him to evade the mist"

Yang Qing sighed, "There's still a way to counter it."

Zhu Yi nodded, "Since only the masters in the Nascent Soul Stage can use it, it must be very taxing for the user, hence once a user fails on his first attempt, it should be hard to create a second try."

Xiao Budian suddenly broke into a laughter, "Fifth senior, I think you'd better not think too much about that lady. Maybe you would want to think about fighting fourth senior first"

Yang Qing's expression turned bitter instantaneously, almost as though tears were going to fall.

Xiao Budian patted Yang Qing's shoulder and casually commented, "You're not planning to give up the match and send fourth senior straight to the semi-finals, are you?"

He meant it purely as a joke, but Yang Qing considered for a moment and nodded, "Rather than embarrass myself, this sounds like a good idea".

Chapter 287: Internal Strife

After hearing Yang Qing's reply, Xiao Budian was taken aback. After a split second, he gave Yang Qing's back a hard smack, "there's no such thing as admitting defeat before the start of a match!"

"He isn't my opponent" came the reply

"Since we're all from the same sect, there's no point in carrying on with the match if we'd all known that I'd lose"

Lin Feng's gaze turned to Yang Qing, "Without really competing, who'd know the outcome? Even if you know that you are weaker, the least I expect is the courage to fight".

"Besides, there're always lessons to learn from defeat"

"Sorry master, I was ignorant" said Yang Qing as he turned to face Yue Hongyan. "Senior, it's my honour".

"Please" replied Yue Hongyan.

The duo walked into the ring abreast.

From behind, Xiao Budian suddenly shouted, "Fifth senior! Fight well! You can admit defeat if you really cannot handle her!"

"As*hole!" rebuked Yang Qing as he turned around and stabbed his finger towards Xiao Budian's direction. Cheeky Xiao Budian pretended not to hear anything.

Zhu Yi and the rest shook their heads in silence. Even so, Xiao Budian was not exactly wrong. The duo were from the same sect, had trained together and had no animosity between them. There simply was nothing wrong with surrendering.

Inside the ring, Yue Hongyan grinned at Yang Qing, "Fift junior, take up your position. I'm ready".

In a flash, she charged towards Yang Qing. The Black Ember Pole-Ax left a trail like a meteor as it struck at Yang Qing.

Despite sharing the same roots, there was clearly no mercy in Yue Hongyan's intent.

Yang Qing knew Yue Hongyan's tactics. She was a straightforward warrior who put pressure on her opponents from the very start, not suppressing her strength right from the beginning. Given her blunt character, she was not one to let Yang Qing dictate the fight and utilize his strengths. Letting the opponent run out of tactics to use was not something Yue Hongyan would do.

Yang Qing therefore readied his defence from the outset, it was after all his strength.

The Grand Moon Primordial Water emerged in a flash of brilliance to counter Yue Hongyan's attack. The Imperius Grand Moon Curse was not solely to counter magic, it was adept at blocking Divine Martial Ways too. Upon contact with the weapon, the Primordial Water began to emulate Yue Hongyan's magical powers.

In an instant, Yue Hongyan felt her control of her weapon falter. Her own powers were fluctuating and she knew that was the work of Yang Qing's magic. Yet she could not differentiate which powers belonged to her and which came from Yang Qing.

All the magical powers felt alike to her, no matter how much she chose to release, Yang Qing would interfere.

Her once powerful and aggressive attacks became light and weak. Yang Qing's magic had worked. Under Lin Feng's tutelage, Yue Hongyan had mastery over the intricacies of power manipulation, but after the counter from Yang Qing, she was awed beyond measure, "He might be quiet usually, but he sure has some wicked hidden power".

Yue Hongyan's eyebrows peaked and within her eyes flashed a bright flame.

She tightened her grip on the pole-ax. A bright red aura emanated from her body as she activated her Avici Infernal Gale.

The Gale enveloped the pole-ax as Yue Hongyan maneuvered it like an extension of her arm, culminating in a powerful swing

towards Yang Qing.

Yang Qing displayed the same magic once again, and was able to imitate Yue Hongyan's power, but was unable to mimic the magic from the Avici Infernal Gale.

Yang Qing was momentarily flustered. "Am I unable to mimic the power of a legendary wind?"

"By the looks of it, I won't be able to mimic the seven primordial flames and the six primordial waters as well.."

"After I surpass the foundation establishment stage, will I have a breakthrough in my improvement?" Yang Qing was momentarily lost in thought. He glided backwards, narrowly avoiding the attack. As the Imperius Grand Moon Curse lost its use, so did Yang Qing lose his confidence to stage a counter attack.

Yang Qing's lapse created a window of opportunity for Yue Hongyan to step up her offense, which she did ferociously. Wave after wave of relentless attacks left Yang Qing completely on his toes.

Among all of Lin Feng's disciples, Yue Hongyan was the most battle-worn while Yang Qing was the least experienced. Thus when Yue Hongyan took on the active offense, it left Yang Qing bereaved of any chance of victory.

"Master was right, there are indeed lessons in defeat" thought

Yang Qing.

Perhaps it was the fact that the duo was from the same sect that made Yang Qing at peace with himself. He calmly collected his thoughts, "I'm no match in terms of variations and adaptations. She definitely wouldn't let me drag this fight until I see a turning point"

"I guess the only option is to fight fire with fire. I'll go head to head with her and stop avoiding her attacks. It's a rather futile option, but the best option nonetheless."

Yang Qing mustered a gust of courage and roared up every ounce of magical power in his body, throwing out a gargantuan surge of Grand Moon Primordial Water with the Grand Moon Flash Flood Mantra. His attack was clear - straight towards Yue Hongyan.

Yue Hongyan smiled, "At least he's a man of courage". She stopped in her tracks and gathered every single inch of Avici Infernal Gale behind her pole-ax, swinging down with every muscle in her body. The combined attacks culminated in a blast that sent both parties flying out of the ring. It seemed like a draw.

"Senior, you're truly formidable. I admit defeat" said Yang Qing with a sheepish smile. Despite giving it his all, Yang Qing was only able to come to a tie with Yue Hongyan. On the other hand, Yue Hongyan had still not displayed her true powers. Asking to continue the battle to decide the victor would be a brazen act of arrogance on Yang Qing's part.

Truth to be told, despite her blunt and directed attacks, Yue Hongyan still fought with a sense of mercy. Without it, she would have entered the ring and used the Space-destroying Spear Technique from the outset to destroy Yang Qing.

Yang Qing had given his best for this fight, and had no regrets.

Outside the ring, the Immortal Soul stage elders watching the fight all nodded in agreement. Every member of the Celestial Sect of Wonders was truly a wonder. If Yang Qing had not met his senior in this round, he was likely to advance to the next.

Zhu Yi sighed, "What a pity for Fifth junior, if only he had mastered the foundation establishment stage, he would have forced out fourth junior's Space-destroying Spear Technique and have had more of a fight".

Xiao Budian added grumpily, "What a lousy draw, if he were to meet anyone else, he'd stroll into the semi-finals".

Wang Lin shook his head, "Not necessarily, that Shi Shaogan is no push-over".

The quarter finalists' gaze were all upon Yang Qing. Dao Yuting, Zhamu Zelu and the rest all looked at him with uncertainty. Apart from Shi Shaogan who might have no big problem, the rest of the quarter finalists all questioned what would happen if it were them competing instead of Yue Hongyan. Would they be able to take on Yang Qing?

No one dared to think any further.

They all secretly rejoiced that the draw was as such. For if the disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders were to be split up, it was highly possible for all three of them to enter the semi-finals.

Such a terrifying scenario would make the competition seem like a training session for the Celestial Sect of Wonders and would definitely put everyone else to shame.

The Aurous Core and Nascent Soul stage elders from the various sects all eyed Lin Feng in a different light. The man in purple-blue robes standing in front of them had single-handedly created such a powerful sect!

Next up for the match was the fight between Shi Shaogan and the man from the Purple Clouds Sect.

The crowd of Purple Clouds Sect disciples were hoping for a breakthrough. Alas, the match ended in a one-sided victory for Shi Shaogan.

Even so, this fight had forced him to reveal his true prowess. It was the pinnacle technique of the Great Qin Empire - the Secret Manual of the Five Imperial True Dragons. When fully mastered, this technique would summon five beams of light that would transform into five dragons, enveloping the skies.

Throughout the tournament, he had been displaying the

techniques of the Imperial Crimson Dragon, but this fight made him showcase his Imperial Yellow Dragon technique. He revealed another two moves, showing his competency and talent.

Lin Feng seemed pleased to see this man, "What a true talent the Great Qin Empire has".

From the corner of his eye, Lin Feng could see Prince Anliang smiling intently, clearly satisfied by Shi Shaogan's performance. "So Shi Shaogan is related to the prince" thought Lin Feng.

For the final quarter-final match, Huo Chen of the Huo Family strode nonchalantly towards the ring, stared straight at Wang Lin, and continued into the ring.

Wang Lin returned the cold stare and made his way into the ring.

Lin Feng could see that Huo Xiu seemed nonchalant towards the fight, his attention given to the Sea of the Northern Wind.

Inside the ring, Huo Chen glared at Wang Lin and commented, "I have to admit that your juniors are indeed very strong. Your sect has truly produced a few strong warriors"

"But the question here is a matter of age. They have attained such a level of mastery despite being in their early twenties. How old are you? Thirty? Forty?"

"After so many years of practice and you can't even compare

yourself to two young kids?" mocked Huo Chen as he drew his sword from his sheath. "Let me see if you've been living all this while for nothing."

Chapter 288: They Say You Come From Hell?

A murderous aura emanated from Huo Chen. Directly beneath him, outside of the ring, the once green grass withered to brown, all their life forces extinguished.

His saber tilted slightly towards Wang Lin, like a tiger waiting to pounce on an unsuspecting prey. Black arrow-like auras shot straight towards Wang Lin, each one a deadly messenger in itself.

Wang Lin stood his ground calmly, magical aura surrounding him like loyal sentries. In a flash, he had entered the Destructive Stage of the River of Styx!

This was unseen power. A hidden card up his sleeve. The aura around him turned from light to dark, yellow to black, as though Hades himself had appeared.

The aura from Huo Chen vanished upon nearing Wang Lin, like fine sand gently seeping into the vast ocean, disappearing without a trace.

"The power to vanquish?" Huo Chen's expression took a complete turn, as though he had fought through fire and water to escape hell, and Wang Lin was the Devil himself.

"I heard you have come from Hell" said Wang Lin blatantly, his eyes unmoving, not revealing an inch of expression.

Regardless of what he was, Huo Chen had displayed mental fortitude beyond that of the average foundation establishment stage warrior. If not for his lack of sheer power, his mind was already somewhat ready for the next stage of evolution.

The taunting and trash talk before the fight was mere psychological warfare. Now that Wang Lin proved to be formidable, Huo Chen did not cower, but raised his sword and charged straight ahead.

"Asura killing way! Asura lightning!" shouted Huo Chen.

His magical power concentrated at the tip of his sword, forming a thundercloud that raced towards Wang Lin.

"Celestial Finger of Styx! Go back!" countered Wang Lin.

From the tip of his finger, Heaven, Earth, Wind, Thunder, Water, Fire, Mountain and Pond, all eight elements formed a sphere of light around his body. The thundercloud entered the rotating sphere, and was devoured immediately by the light, only to be spit out the next second, moving at blinding speed towards Huo Chen. Huo Chen's exact attack was used against him! This time, his attack was piled upon Wang Lin's own power, making the move beyond formidable.

Huo Chen's fighting principle was to fight and kill, but Wang Lin took it to a whole new level, his was to eliminate and obliterate completely! What distance there was between killing a man and destroying heaven and earth!

In a violent howl, Huo Chen was hauled out of the ring! A deep sense of fear overcame him. It was pure Armageddon. Absolute despair. From the centre of his body appeared a ball of black aura. Something smelled like death.

From afar, Wang Lin raised his right index and whispered, "Celestial Finger of Styx, vanquish"

Under this technique, everything became a puff of smoke, and the smoke particles became nothing but thin air, and the air became nothing. It was not throwing someone to the gallows, but completely erasing one's existence.

Huo Chen felt his time had come, and every bit of magic in him tingled. His face contorted, revealing what seemed like rage, hatred, betrayal and a myriad of many emotions.

"I can't believe you actually mastered such a disgusting technique! If you have surpassed the foundation establishment stage, then perhaps you would have killed me". Huo Chen's face was beyond furious! "But now you cannot! And you will not!".

The black aura around him concentrated back, forming a sphere once again. The magic that Wang Lin had casted was inevitably pulled towards the sphere, like tiny objects gravitating towards a heavy mass.

On the surface of what now looked like a gigantic bomb was thousands of purple streaks of lightning that snaked their way

around the sphere.

"Asura blast" whispered Huo Chen. Below his breath, the command called for the expansion of the black sphere. As though the tides crashing into the shoreline, Huo Chen's black sphere collided against Wang Lin's aura of death, easily breaking through as would a tidal wave.

Outside the ring, every spectator had his eyes on the fight. All the foundation establishment stage warriors looked upon the duo intently.

"The Huo family is known for killing mercilessly." Many of the aurous core stage warriors gasped at the sight of this tremendous power. A mere foundation establishment stage fighter could already rival them.

At the Northern Tribes clan, the aurous core stage fighter turned to Zhamu Zeluo and beckoned, "you may have won against one of the Huos, but if you were to face this Huo Chen, you'd be in serious trouble".

The injured Zhamu Zeluo plainly nodded his head in agreement, his previous arrogance proved unqualified.

Inside the ring, the eruption of Huo Chen's sphere through Wang Lin's death aura shook the stage.

"Now Die!" cried Huo Chen. But to his surprise and everyone's

amazement, there was not a single streak of lightning that remained. Everything from the Asura spells had vanished. Completely gone without a trace.

Inside what was left of Wang Lin's death aura was a black and yellow path that extended into the void, nobody could see its end. Huo Chen felt like his was outside of his body. His mind a puzzle taken apart and messily pieced together again. He could not recognise what was happening, things appeared and vanished in his plain sight. His past flashed before him. It was Deja Vu, yet it wasn't. He knew where he was, but he didn't.

From the path into the void came a thousand hands. Human hands reaching out for Huo Chen, beckoning him to join them. It was not a warm invitation, but a cold calling. The hands were without flesh, ivory white bones that seemed only to want to grab Huo Chen and drag him into the abyss.

Every muscle in Huo Chen fought against this sensation. But it was like a dream, a place where he could not control what he did, and he could only surrender to this pull. The scene before his eyes flashed and disappeared, instantly replaced by Wang Lin's cold glare.

Without waiting for his response, the black aura around Wang Lin formed up into the shape of a massive palm, slamming down on Huo Chen.

"Shatter!" shouted Wang Lin.

In a loud thud, Huo Chen's limb body flew out of the ring, spinning in the air like a ball, landing onto the hard ground like a lame rag doll.

It was the work of the fighting ring that had saved Huo Chen. Such a blow, uncontrolled, would definitely have smashed Huo Chen to bits. He would have been minced.

The audience stared mouth agape. They had all witnessed first hand how Wang Lin never gave up the upper hand, complementing the River Styx series of attacks with aggression and initiative, not once letting Huo Chen have a chance to retaliate.

Huo Chen did not stand a chance to begin with. His 'retaliation' seemed like a futile meow of a prey before being devoured by the lion, his courage just another avenue for Wang Lin's exhibition.

From the Great Qin Empire's camp, Shi Shaogan uttered, "Only foundation establishment.."

The Heaven Lake Sect seemed bitter about the outcome. "The Celestial Sect of Wonders are through again! Huo Chen's useless!" cried Fang Zhong.

"He can't even beat someone who's just entered the foundation establishment stage! Shame of the Huo family!"

A junior from the Heaven Lake Sect jokingly mocked him, "Didn't

you also lose to someone from the foundation establishment stage?"

Fang Zhong could not take such an insult, "Why you bastard..."

Out of nowhere, Dao Yuting suddenly interjected, "quiet".

And the Heaven Lake Sect fell silent.

Nobody, including Fang Zhong and his junior spoke a word. His junior was taking the chance to rub salt in his wound. But everyone knew that the difference between the middle and final stage in the foundation establishment was less than that between the initial and middle stage.

Erecting the altar raises one's power tremendously, while placing the stand above the altar has limits in its enhancement.

Seeing Wang Lin exit the ring unscathed, Shi Zongyue and Vivant Joy Holy Man exchanged glances, a palette of emotions appeared in the two immortal souls.

What caught their attention was not Wang Lin's current power, but the fact that the Celestial Sect on Wonders had produced so many talents with such potential, each of them harnessing a unique power of their own.

Although it was evident that Wang Lin, Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing shared the same roots, but each of their skill sets were

completely unlike one another.

Wang Lin had the power to obliterate, Yue Hongyan had a touch of manipulating space, and Yang Qing had the understanding of evolution. Although each one started off from the Great Celestial Way of the Eight Trigrams, they had each carved their own path from there.

It was as if the branches of a willow, fig, and palm grew individually from the stem and roots of an oak.

It was said that the three Aurous core stage disciples, Zhu Yi, Xiao Yan and Xiao Budian each had their unique traits as well.

"The Celestial Sect of Wonders shares the same roots and origins, yet can produce uncountable permutations. Each variation breathtaking in its own right." commented Vivant Joy Holy Man. "To be able to create such a sect, I wonder how their leader is like" he said as he turned towards Lin Feng.

Shi Zongyue faced Lin Feng at the same time, "it's no coincidence that such a sect is born".

Chapter 289: A Cultured Meeting

Not just Shi Zongyue or Vivant Joy Holy Man, but the numerous immortal souls, nascent soul stage and aurous core stage fighters cast their eyes on the Celestial Sect of Wonders.

It's often said that one has to see in order to believe. Rumors are but rumors, stories made more dramatic as it flows from one mouth to the next, often ending up as colourful but unbelievable fantasies.

But everyone saw. The crowd had seen for themselves how formidable the Celestial Sect of Wonders was.

Lin Feng glanced at the goals he had set for himself and the sect, and saw that there was progress, and he was pleased. One of the purpose of bringing his disciples out for the assembly was to better the reputation of his sect, and he had achieved it.

"Not bad," Lin Feng complimented Wang Lin as he returned from the ring.

"There's still room for improvement" replied Wang Lin, a warm smile returning to his icy cold face.

He listened intently as Lin Feng pointed out his errors in handling magic, nodding and absorbing the lesson.

"Hmm?" stopped Lin Feng in his tracks. He had sensed a unique

aura coming from the horizon towards the Sea of the Northern Wind. It was a solitary presence. Aurous core stage at best, but very unique.

It was one that was learned, experienced, respectful, benevolent and pure.

Such aura was rarely found on fighters.

From the corner of his sight, Vivant Joy Holy Man beckoned to Shi Zongyue, "He's here."

"Perhaps a little too late," replied Shi Zongyue.

"He might have overslept a little, but he'll still make it."

Shi Zongyue sighed, "It's really a bad habit."

The mass of immortal soul fighters could all sense the lone presence. After the exchange between Shi Zongyue and Vivant Joy Holy Man, Lin Feng felt his curiosity piqued even further.

Evidently, they both not only knew who this mystery man was, but was familiar with his antics. From the looks of it, this man was going to participate in the competition as well.

But the peculiar thing was this, given that so many immortal soul elders and strong warriors had arrived on time, what audacity it

was for this man to arrive late. It was no big matter for Lin Feng and the likes of his ranks, but such an act was utmost disrespect towards Shi Zongyue, the host.

Notwithstanding, the fact that Shi Zongyue and the rest spoke somewhat fondly or even protectively of this man made everyone even more curious.

The crowd murmured incessantly, the immortal soul elders hush in their discussions.

Lin Feng and his disciples exchanged glances, collectively recalling that when Shi Xingyun came over to send his greetings, he had made a comment in passing that there was still one absent fighter who could rival Zhu Yi and Xiao Budian.

It was highly probable to be this man.

In his usual calm demeanour, Zhu Yi looked over his shoulder towards the horizon, making out the silhouette of a man walking towards the crowd.

The man's movements were sloppy and unkempt, clearly someone who did not care about being late.

But in fact he moved at tremendous speed, the ground beneath him flashed past, the scenery a blur. In no time, he stood in front of the crowd.

His face revealed no expression at all, not the slightest sign of anxiety.

What caught Zhu Yi's attention the most was that above this man's head was a column of aura that rose to the sky. The aura was light and did not carry much power, but a deeper look let one see that it was clearly made up of tiny chinese characters, strung together in beautiful prose.

"A scholar of the Great Qin Empire?"

"Not bad at all" replied the man.

The man was in his twenties, donning a long beige robe, green top and a scarf, clearly a learned person who had a scholar-like aura.

He was not particularly handsome, nor righteous nor evil, just plain and warm.

He stood in front of the audience and motioned to the crowd, "My name is Jiao Junchen, pleasure to meet everyone."

Jiao Junchun smiled sheepishly, but was not shy in admitting, "I've a bad habit of oversleeping, sorry to keep everyone waiting"

Nobody knew what to say to such a frank person. No one seemed to criticise him.

In any case, it was almost impossible to lie to the immortal soul elders. And if what he said was true, then he had really overslept.

But it was quite ludicrous an excuse.

"You might as well have not turned up!" someone from the crowd interjected, but even if it were true, Jiao Junchen did not seem to mind at all. In fact, it would have been no surprise if Jiao Junchen turned and left to go back to sleep.

Of course, Shi Zongyue and the other immortal soul elders would not allow it. Besides, it was likely that the matter be let aside unless anyone like Lin Feng and his ranks were to pursue it, given the elders protection of Jiao Junchen.

The other elders were more interested to find out exactly what this aurous core brat was capable of.

Though not everyone could see, but the elders definitely knew that Jiao Junchen was a natural charmer.

Vivant Joy Holy Man cleared his throat, "Junchen, join the rest. We'll proceed with the drawing of lots for the semi-finals of the foundation establishment stage competition".

Jiao Junchen obliged and proceeded towards his camp, only to be stopped by Shi Xingyun, "Slept enough?".

"Actually, not quite" replied Jiao Junchen. He sneezed, but did not seem to mean any disrespect.

Shi Xingyun pointed to the Celestial Sect of Wonders and commented, "The young man in purple robes over there is Zhu Yi".

"He's the second disciple of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, also the son of the Marquis of Xuanji, Zhu Hongwu and the Great Void Sect's previous All-under-heavens strider Meng Bingyun."

Jiao Junchen's eyes widened and glistened with excitement, "I'll go and send my greetings".

Shi Xingyun replied, "Go ahead, I mentioned your name to them earlier just now. Zhu Yi said that even if he did not get to spar with you, he'd like to speak to you."

"Haha, then we shall see how learned he is" joked Jiao Junchen as he made his way over.

Noticing Jiao Junchen's movements, Lin Feng turned towards Zhu Yi, who was already looking at Jiao Junchen.

At Lin Feng's camp, Jiao Junchen took a ceremonious bow, "I'm Jiao Junchen, it's an honour to meet you sir".

Lin Feng nodded without a word.

Jiao Junchen stood upright and took a good look at Zhu Yi, "You are a scholar too?"

The concept of a scholar was very broad, but in this case very applicable to both men.

Zhu Yi replied, "That's right".

Out of nowhere, Jiao Junchen let out a sigh of regret, "I don't think you can make it. We're better off sparring in martial art. Exchanging ideas with a person like you seems rather pointless"

Lin Feng almost blurted out a laugh.

"This fellow is so sarcastic towards Zhu Yi, he's almost taunting him," thought Lin Feng.

Zhu Yi's eyebrows stood at attention, his face revealing a forced smile.

Jiao Junchen looked Zhu Yi in the eyes and frankly commented, "Your results today are like the rest, fruit of hard labour. But you are no doubt talented, being this powerful in your twenties, you are unbelievably talented indeed."

"But your studies are sub-par. A real scholar reads, meditates, and grows spiritually. He does not dwell in these arts or magic. You seek a different understanding of the natural world"

"The real scholar is truly outstanding. He does not seek attention, but it is given to him once he appears"

"They don't normally get involved with any martial arts, but absorb the spirit of the earth naturally. Once on their way, they don't stop acquiring knowledge until they've reached new heights. They just keep learning until one day, they swallow an Aurous Core"

"For all there is to know, the Aurous Core contains it all. But with the right spark, overnight one will form the nascent soul".

Jiao Junchen stoically continued, "You are a talented fighter, but not a scholar. I would like to spar with you, but not in academia".

Zhu Yi listened for a moment, then questioned, "Spiritual development as a way of understanding the world is not wrong, may I ask which stage you are at?"

Shi Xingyun had been observing the exchange, and had walked over. He added, "My friend Jiao Junchen here did not practice at all before the entrance exams last year. He entered the exams fresh and ignorant, but when he came out he was already at the final part of the aurous core stage"

Jiao Junchen sighed, "I'm not gifted, I'm still far below the elders' level"

He meant every word, not trying to show off.

But no matter how one interpreted, it seemed staged.

"It's really a cultured meeting" thought Lin Feng. Looking at the exchange between his disciples and Jiao Junchen, Lin Feng could not help but shake his head, "So this man is a follower of Confucianism, I thought the lineage had ended already" he said.

Shi Zongyue stood surprised. Jiao Junchen adjusted his clothes and faced Lin Feng, courteously taking a bow, "Sir, you're indeed well-versed. I am a follower of Confucianism."

Chapter 290: The Semi-Finals Draw

"Ancient Confucian sect?" Zhu Yi's eyes turned to Lin Feng.

Lin Feng nodded, "In ancient times there was a boy named Confucius. From the age of three he started studying, and all he did everyday was read, write and think. He did not partake in any martial arts nor magical training, and his mind was solely focused on the pursuit of knowledge."

"The old sage lived over a hundred years old, which was already considered a living legend. On a rainy day when he was a hundred and three years old, he had an epiphany and concentrated everything he knew and felt into a cauldron. The cauldron exploded and shot through twelve levels of the building. Thereafter, he immediately erected an altar and an elixir stand."

Lin Feng's expression delivered a sense of awe, for he was in disbelief when he first heard of this story.

In the late morning after he set up the elixir stand, the Aurous Core began to form. By noon it had grown slightly, and by the evening it was complete and round.

Through the night, the storm continued to brew and rage. The sage drew the power of the lightning and thunder and directed it to the Aurous Core, forming a complete nascent soul overnight.

After that the sage continued studying and practicing, combining his knowledge and newfound power, ultimately becoming an

immortal soul.

His teachings lived on under the Confucius sect, becoming a well-known legend in the Divine Lands.

But from what Lin Feng knew, this sect had been long defunct.

And it was clear, it was no easy feat to achieve magical powers solely from the study of academia. It would take a true scholar immense patience and knowledge to be able to cultivate and magic just from studying.

Even normal martial artists had difficulty reaching the nascent soul stage, lest the scholars and normal folks.

It would only be a one-in-a-million true scholar who could achieve such a feat.

In other words, this was a pursuit of knowledge and understanding, and all the studying beforehand was to establish a solid foundation upon which magic was built. But it was so of the highest level, for many have tried, but remained ordinary scholars.

Lin Feng looked at Jiao Junchen and added, "Looking from both the perspectives of academia and martial arts, this guy is a genius".

Jiao Junchen was only thirty years of age, and he had already reached the final aurous core stage. Such feat was beyond rare.

Presently, the only person who was faster than Jiao Junchen was the man with polycoria, Shi Tianyi, the man who once disrespected Xiao Budian.

After hearing Jiao Junchen's introduction, Zhu Yi understood the roots of the ancient Confucius sect. He looked at Jiao Junchen with mischievous eyes and blatantly commented, "Brother Jiao, not only do you see yourself as the benchmark for all scholars, but set Confucian teaching as a metric of academia, is that right?"

"Those who do not follow traditional teaching are people who know nothing?"

Zhu Yi flexed his fingers and continued, "You are the great scholar of the Great Qin Empire, I am but a nobody. If I were to request to exchange knowledge and you were to oblige, I'm afraid you would be reluctant"

"This reluctance would affect your performance and there are but two results. First, your writing will make absolutely no sense, or two, it would be overly filled with emotion that it weighs the reader down."

Jiao Junchen's eyes widened, "To be able to spout something like this, it seems that you are capable of some knowledge".

Zhu Yi laughed, "If I stimulate your thoughts, I should be happy. But I'm afraid that you are but an empty shell"

"No worry, I'll be heading to the capital later in the year to take the Qin Emperor's exams. After that we can have an exchange session to see who the learned truly is."

"Oh? That'll be great" replied Jiao Junchen.

Zhu Yi continued, "There's always time to compare knowledge. But since we're here, we might as well have a martial arts sparring"

"Even if the draws forbid, we can still have a private match" Zhu Yi added, "We are both learned people, there's a saying that there's always something to learn from another person"

"In his late years, the old sage once stopped to get advice from a kid. The more we know, the more we don't know. The scholar's ego is more sickening than a loner"

Jiao Junchen stared at Zhu Yi for a while. He smiled and replied, "All of a sudden I hope that the draws allow us to meet".

Zhu Yi smiled but did not answer.

After Jiao Junchen and Shi Xingyun took their leave, Lin Feng turned to Zhu Yi and said, "After this war of words your heart is much clearer. You're standing on the cusp, only an invisible membrane stands between you and the middle aurous core stage."

Zhu Yi nodded, "Thanks master for pointing out, I've indeed hit a glass ceiling"

He looked at Jiao Junchen's distant profile and continued, "defeating this man would take me to the next level".

Jiao Junchen's arrival was a minor disruption. The crowd had thought that he was here for a showdown with Zhu Yi, hence his departure left many disappointed.

Once again, the crowd's attention turned to the semi final draw of the foundation establishment stage.

Wang Lin, Yue Hongyan, Shi Shaogan and Dao Yuting had all reached such a stage of mastery at a tender age, proving to be the best among their peers. The earlier stages of fighting had revealed all their prowess, and the crowd was eager to see the match-up.

This was especially since Yue Hongyan and Wang Lin were from the same sect, making the Celestial Sect of Wonders a powerhouse once again.

For the majority of the crowd, many of them were silently hoping that Yue Hongyan would face Wang Lin, to let the weirdos face off.

Lin Feng looked at Vivant Joy Holy Man's bottle, if the draw was such that his disciples faced each other, he would really curse and swear.

Xiao Budian and the rest were anxious too, all of them hoping for their comrades to enter the finals and boost the reputation of their sect.

Apart from the members of the Celestial Sect of Wonders, there was one other person in the arena who was hoping that Yue Hongyan and Wang Lin would avoid each other.

Jiao Junchen looked at Shi Xingyun, "Since when were you on such good terms with the Celestial Sect of Wonders?"

"I've long heard of them, but only got to meet them recently"

Jiao Junchen looked slightly puzzled, "Isn't it better for your cousin Shi Shaogan if Yue and Wang were to meet?"

"Although I did not see for myself, but I heard that each one of them has a unique fighting style, and every one of them is formidable."

"If there's one person I hope he meets, it'll be Wang Lin" added Shi Xingyun.

"Why? Is he the weakest?" asked Jiao Junchen.

"No, because he's a man."

"So what?"

Shi Xingyun stuttered for a moment, seemingly embarrassed, "My cousin he...he...if he were to meet a lady, a young lady..."

Jiao Junchen came to a sudden realisation, "So his usual cool appearance is just a facade! Ha! Who'd expect him to be such a man?"

Jiao Junchen was keen and picked up that Shi Xingyun appeared more awkward than before. This bemused him even further.

"What cool appearance...he was taught by someone, it's all an act" Shi Xingyun continued, "Anyway, may all heavens bless him to get Wang Lin. Even if he really loses, that's fine as well".

Finally, the results of the draw were out.

Wang Lin was to meet Dao Yuting. Yue Hongyan was up against Shi Shaogan!

Shi Xingyun sighed, "it's over."

Over at Lin Feng's camp, Xiao Budian motioned to Yue Hongyan, "fourth senior, that brat is looking at you".

Yue Hongyan looked over her shoulder and caught Shi Shaogan staring straight at her with an unusual expression.

"Who cares, a fight is a fight" Yue Hongyan replied nonchalantly and turned her gaze away.

Lin Feng smiled and projected his power to send a message to Yue Hongyan.

A moment later, a startled Yue Hongyan turned to face Lin Feng, who gently nodded. Yue Hongyan's expressions turned solemn and she replied, "Yes master, I'll heed your word".

Over at the other side of the arena, the Heaven Lake Sect looked at the Celestial Sect of Wonders with contempt, especially Fang Zhong who venomously glared at Yang Qing.

Yang Qing felt the uncomfortable gaze and was about to turn away when Wang Lin interjected, "What're you afraid of? You beat him earlier on"

Yang Qing let out an awkward laugh. Wang Lin looked at him apathetically and added, "His hatred towards you just goes to show that you did not pound him hard enough. This kind of guys are worse than dogs, they only cower when they meet someone fiercer than themselves".

Amidst the Heaven Lake Sect, perhaps the most usual-looking person was Dao Yuting. Her long hair billowing in the wind, revealing an icy cold face and snow white lips.

Even as she turned to look at Wang Lin, she maintained her ice-queen self.

The first match of the semi finals was Yue Hongyan's. She took a bow towards Lin Feng and headed into the ring.

Shi Shaogan followed closely behind, the two of them only ten metres apart.

Shi Xingyun nervously glanced at the entrance of the ring, "please don't...please..." he uttered to himself.

Lin Feng noticed his unease and was slightly intrigued. He then realised that Shi Zongyue was also anxiously looking upon Shi Shaogan.

Just before Yue Hongyan made her first move, Shi Shaogan suddenly shouted, "Wait!"

Chapter 291: He Was Acting Silly!

Yue Hongyan was already in position, but Shi Shaogan shouted suddenly, "Hold a minute". This made her crease her brows and she stopped moving.

This was only a sparring contest. If their lives were at stake, Yue Hongyan would not have bothered about what he said. She would take the opportunity to take him down as he spouted nonsense.

Furthermore, as Shi Shaogan blurted out the words, Shi Xingyun closed her eyes and her face revealed a desperate expression.

Shi Zongyue, the Commander-in-chief and Immortal Soul Stage Elder from the Great Qin Empire that took part in this conference, also revealed an awkward and furious look on his face.

"What they are doing?" Lin Feng creased his brows, "Shi Zongyue and Shi Xingyun looks as if they are going for a funeral. I think he does not have any killer moves up his sleeves."

Yue Hongyan creased her brows at the same time, "What?"

Shi Shaogan coughed and looked at Yue Hongyan, saying seriously, "Miss Hongyan, I am proposing to you officially. I hope that you will marry me as my wife."

His tone was very serious and did not seem like he had any intention of harassing and fooling with her.

At that moment, the entire place was silent.

After a long while, Lin Feng moved his stiff neck and looked at the sky, "Why do I feel that a crow had just flown over?"

When he looked back, he saw that everyone was stunned. The Immortal Soul Stage Elder was shocked beyond words while the Nascent Soul Stage Elder was stunned. The entire Aurous Core Stage cultivators were fossilized, while the Foundation Establishment Stage cultivators were stoned like clay statues.

The entire lakeside of the Sea of the Northern Wind was dead silent even though hundreds of people were gathered over there. Only the cold wind could be heard.

Even the Great Qin Empire camp was in a state of shock and looking at Shi Shaogan in the Hidden Dragon Gorge.

Only Shi Zongyue and Shi Xingyun were still bursting with energy and they both let out a silent sigh.

The air continued to echo Shi Shaogan's voice, "After we exit the Hidden Dragon Gorge, I will propose marriage to the leader of the Celestial Sect of Wonders. But I think it is more appropriate for you to know my feelings first. At the same time, I hope that you will agree to my proposal."

After a few moments, everyone started to react. There were a lot

of stares at the Great Qin Empire camp. Although there was no laughter, the stares made the people from the Great Qin Empire extremely embarrassed.

Jiao Junchen was also stunned in place for a few moments before he laughed, "This person has character. He is a very straightforward person."

Shi Xingyun accepted fate and looked desolate. She lost her aura and steadiness of a Great Qin Empire princess.

"You do not know, that is why you phrase it that way." Shi Xingyun looked at Jiao Junchen and said, "If the lady standing in front of him was Dao Yuting, he will have done the same thing."

Jiao Junchen was speechless at this point.

Lin Feng did not know whether to laugh or cry as he looked at Shi Shaogan confessing. He felt as if a hundred thousand grassland horses filled with mud was sprinting towards him.

"At first, I thought that you were a stuck-up, violent and shallow person. Who knew that you had a funny side to you, beneath that cool demeanor!"

Lin Feng felt a sense of powerlessness, "You are such a silly man, regardless of whether you are joking or serious, what are you trying to do here? Do you not look at the situation before acting?"

You have spoilt the atmosphere of this spiritual conference!

Shi Zongyue coughed and looked towards Lin Feng, saying, "My grandson.... he is a little innocent and does not go by the rules. If he has offended you in any way, I hope that Master Lin will forgive him."

Lin Feng replied, "It is fine, it is fine."

Shi Zongyue's gaze also flashed a hint of helplessness and fury. He swore that if Shi Shaogan was not his biological grandson and that if he was not that talented, he would personally kill him.

In the abovementioned conditions, even if he did not fulfill either one, Shi Zongyue would still kill him.

"My grandson is a little reckless, but his heart is sincere." Shi Zongyue straightened his expression and said seriously, "I shall officially propose marriage for Shaogan to wed your disciple, Master Lin. Please consider carefully."

Lin Feng looked at Shi Zongyue but was speechless. Did he not hear what Shi Xingyun mentioned just now?

If Dao Yuting was standing in front of him, would his grandson have act out such a silly side to him?

Lin Feng had reason to believe that Shi Shaogan would find an opportunity to act silly in front of Dao Yuting after confessing to

Yue Hongyan.

At this point, Lin Feng could tell that Shi Shaogan was not a Casanova who tried to lay his hands on beauties that he coveted. It was just that he lacked the knowledge to deal with gender relationships.

Every man liked beauties, but as for Shi Shaogan...he was a little funny in that aspect.

But as Lin Feng looked at Shi Zongyue, he realized that Shi Zongyue was very serious, which showed that he was really asking Lin Feng to consider such a proposal and that he really wanted Shi Shaogan to wed Yue Hongyan.

Lin Feng's pupils shrunk slightly. Shi Zongyue's intention was clear, that was, he wanted them to be related by marriage.

A marriage between the Great Qin Empire and the Celestial Sect of Wonders.

It was not just applicable to countries or families. They could also be related by marriage in the world of cultivators.

A related marriage between sects, between aristocrats and between sects and aristocrats also existed.

To the Great Qin Empire, a related marriage was common.

Although Shi Shaogan's actions were silly, but if he managed to wed Yue Hongyan, whatever that ensued could be considered a success.

Of course, that was secondary. To Shi Zongyue, building a close relationship with the Celestial Sect of Wonders was beneficial to the Great Qin Empire and himself.

Especially now when the pressure was mounting as the Great Zhou Empire was becoming more and more prosperous.

The logic behind this was simple. Lin Feng could understand it straight away, but it did not mean that he agreed.

"I will leave it up to Hongyan. If she fancies your grandson, I will be glad to give my blessings. But if she has no fate with your grandson, I will not force it upon her either."

Lin Feng's tone of voice was calm and pleasant, but his words clearly revealed what he felt.

Shi Zongyue creased his brows. He wanted to say something but the situation in the Hidden Dragon Gorge changed drastically suddenly.

Yue Hongyan went cold as she faced Shi Shaogan and her thin brows gradually creased.

She suddenly roared loudly and the mana in her body surged. The all-conquering Black Ember Pole-Ax was released upon Shi Shaogan, causing him to flail as he flew backward.

"Ugh!" Shi Shaogan's words were stuck in his throat. Although he was protected by his own mana, he was swept away by Yue Hongyan's Black Ember Pole-Ax.

After Yue Hongyan unleashed her move on him, she did not continue to exploit her advantage. Rather, she restrained her powers and revealed a perplexed look on her face.

"What, the gibberish that you were spouting just now was not a ploy to distract me?"

Yue Hongyan's face continued to reveal her confusion and disbelief.

The restless spectators were all silent again and were stoned in position.

As the cold wind blew, the entire venue resonated with a screeching sound.

Even the experienced Shi Zongyue was speechless at this point and he could only stare blankly at the Hidden Dragon Gorge.

Lin Feng's lips twitched for a moment before he turned to look at Shi Zongyue. He laughed, "About that, my disciple, uh...is very

innocent too. She is not very polite. I seek your forgiveness, Prince Anliang."

Shi Zongyue laughed as he looked at the sky, laughing, "It is fine, it is fine. Master Lin, you are too kind."

Within the Great Qin Empire camp, both Jiao Junchen and Shi Xingyun looked at each other without speaking.

After a long while, Jiao Junchen laughed, "One who does not follow the rhythm and one who does not know how to adapt. This show is dead. Do not be too worried."

Jiao Junchen did not know that Yue Hongyan was not inadaptable. It was just that after she had adapted, she learned that her heart could only contain one person.

Shi Xingyun laughed bitterly, "I am even more worried now."

Seeing that Jiao Junchen was looking at her curiously, Shi Xingyun sighed again, "It seems that if I had to make a choice between the two, I will rather Shaogan be facing Dao Yuting now. She will at most reject him straight up."

"Now that he met Yue Hongyan who did not know how to react to the situation, I fear that Shaogan will only misunderstand her and cause something even more embarrassing to pop up."

Inside the Hidden Dragon Gorge, Yue Hongyan looked at Shi

Shaogan unhappily, "Since it is not a tactic, why are you talking so much crap?"

Shi Shaogan flipped himself over and brushed off the grass on his hair. He looked at Yue Hongyan and nodded his head seriously, "I know, to win the heart of someone like you, I have to emerge victorious against you first."

"In this case, let me do it!"

After finishing his words, he gathered his entire body's worth of mana and approached Yue Hongyan in his best condition.

His reaction caused everyone outside the gorge to be confused over whether they should laugh or not.

Jiao Junchen was stunned again, while Shi Xingyun shut her eyes in desolation, "It is really the case."

Yue Hongyan did not think further about it. She only knew that Shi Shaogan was very dangerous and his powers were strong.

Two light dragons, one red and one yellow, began to revolve around Shi Shaogan's body surroundings in mid-space. Two different auras of mana began to surface and they were very powerful.

The secret skill of the Great Qin Empire was unleashed. There were the Imperial Script of the Crimson Dragon and the Imperial

Script of the Yellow Dragon, out of the five Secret Manual of the Imperial True Dragons.

Shi Shaogan carried two different spells in his hands. His left hand was opening and closing swiftly and carried a vigorous flame on it.

Whereas his right hand conjured a spell that remained solid in place and was extremely dense.

Shi Shaogan's eyes were flashing with red and yellow radiance while his lips lighted up. He let out a weird tune from his mouth that was like a low-pitched hum by the dragon clan.

"Quick!" Following Shi Shaogan's light shout, the light dragons around him roared at Yue Hongyan. Their stature was terrifying.

Chapter 292: Plotting a Scheme and Countering the Scheme

The Secret Manual of the Five Imperial True Dragons birthed a powerful abhijna known as the Five Elements Light Dragon Transformation Spell. After forming the Five Elements Light Dragon, cultivating till the highest level and manifesting the Five Elements Light Dragon's Imperial True Self, an extremely destructive power would be created.

Shi Shaogan did not possess such capabilities, but for him to cultivate out two different Light Dragons with his Foundation Establishment Stage cultivation was already a feat.

Under his command, the Crimson Light Dragon and the Yellow Light Dragon roared while attacking Yue Hongyan.

In the previous rounds, Shi Shaogan overcame his opponent just by using the Crimson Light Dragon. It was only in the last round that he was forced to unleash the Yellow Light Dragon. With the pairing of the two Light Dragons, he emerged victorious.

Now that he was facing Yue Hongyan, he unleashed both Light Dragons immediately. It was because Yue Hongyan's skills had brought him immense pressure.

Shi Shaogan might be a little silly, but in terms of his cultivation and skills, he was a rare talent.

However, Yue Hongyan was as equally talented as him.

Even in the face of Shi Shaogan's Light Dragons, Yue Hongyan was not fearful. She waved her Black Ember Pole-Ax and a vigorous streak of mana exploded out, which prevented the Light Dragons from inching closer.

Shi Shaogan was a little shocked, "It is so powerful. She has not even used her Avīci Infernal Gale. What does the Celestial Sect of Wonders possess that makes them so powerful?"

But Shi Shaogan was not panicking. He combined the two spells in both his hands into one, causing the Crimson and Yellow Light Dragons to intersect. The Yellow Light Dragon became more and more faint, while the Crimson Light Dragon's powers ballooned.

At the end, the entire flesh, holes, bones, and scales of the Crimson Light Dragon gradually condensed. It was surreal, but its body began to materialize into another entity in a short period of time.

A flaming aura began to surface. The Light Dragon roared loudly, as a faint dragon aura appeared. It was the aura of a True Dragon.

As Lin Feng and the rest witnessed this from outside the gorge, they nodded their heads.

The Blue Pavilion Holy Man sighed, "In the mutual generation sequence of the five elements, the Middle Earth element breeds the

Southern Fire element. Although there are only two spiritual attributes, it is able to cause some form of change."

His disciple from the Purple Clouds Sect lost with no complaints. He had already been defeated even before Shi Shaogan produced this move. If Shi Shaogan had unleashed his entire power, he would have lost even more terribly.

Prince Xian of the Left from the Northern Tribes saw Shi Shaogan and pondered quietly. He believed that Shi Shaogan was indeed a rare talent.

The Sun Radiance Swordmaster also sighed. Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua, the sword pairing that lost to Yue Hongyan, was actually more outstanding than the sword pairing that lost to Dao Yuting.

But even if Li Bingqing and Zou Yuhua faced off with Shi Shaogan, they were not confident of tackling such a move.

Shi Shaogan and Yue Hongyan were one of the cultivators in the Foundation Establishment Stage that were truly capable. Being able to defeat a group of Aurous Core Stage cultivators meant that their true powers had exceeded the gap in cultivation level. This signified that they were the best of the best.

A normal sect that could obtain even one of these individuals thought it as a joyous occasion that should be celebrated in front of their ancestors.

At this point, the Sun Radiance Swordmaster could not help but look at Lin Feng. Even though Yue Hongyan was so outstanding, she was not even the most elite disciple under Lin Feng.

If the Great Void Sect was a gathering ground for talents, then the Celestial Sect of Wonders was a place full of elites.

Inside the Hidden Dragon Gorge, Yue Hongyan was calm as she faced the lively Crimson Light Dragon. The Black Ember Pole-Ax was slanted in the direction of Shi Shaogan. A blustering storm whirled at the spear head, causing all the power to be focused at one point. The spear head developed an extremely destructive power.

At that point, it was as if an all-engulfing black hole had appeared.

The Space-Destroying Spear Technique!

Without further ado, Yue Hongyan unleashed her killer move. Facing Shi Shaogan's intersection of the two Light Dragon, she made the same choice as before, which was to counter him!

If you were strong, then let me be even stronger!

She turned a blind eye to the Crimson Light Dragon and focused on using the Space-Destroying Spear Technique to attack Shi Shaogan.

Shi Shaogan was also calmly focused on Yue Hongyan's Space-Destroying Spear Technique. He was not panicky and controlled his own Crimson Light Dragon to dodge the all-engulfing spear head of Yue Hongyan, avoiding a direct collision between the Crimson Light Dragon and the Space-Destroying Spear Technique.

A situation was formed where Yue Hongyan's Pole-Ax was attacking Shi Shaogan while his Crimson Light Dragon avoided the spear head and was attacking Yue Hongyan.

It seemed like both parties were going to get hurt in this battle

A sly smile suddenly flashed across the lips of Shi Shaogan. Before Yue Hongyan's Space-Destroying Space Technique hit him, his body suddenly transformed into an illusion. It was as if time and space was twisted.

Shi Shaogan's body turned illusory, as if he had plunged into an illusory realm and did not exist in the present time and space. Yue Hongyan's Space-Destroying Spear Technique was going to miss.

"Dimension-less Transformation?!" The Blue Pavilion Holy Man and Cao Wei both shouted.

The remaining Immortal Soul Stage Elders, the Sun Radiance Swordmaster, Supreme Radiance Swordmaster, Prince Xian of the Left from the Northern Tribes and even Huo Xiu, the Asura Holy Man who did not care about anything much, along with the Vivant Joy Holy Man and the Gambling Holy Man were all shocked beyond words.

Although they had not encountered it before, but the Great Void Sect's legendary mantra, the Dimension-less Transformation, was too reputable. It was also easily recognizable.

But because it was easily recognizable, many of the Immortal Soul Stage Elders were shocked.

They were not shocked that Shi Shaogan still had a trump card.

What made them so shocked was that they did not think that Shi Shaogan would have learned the legendary mantra of the Great Void Sect.

How did he learn it, and how was he related to the Great Void Sect? That the Great Void Sect's mantra had been leaked, was it for some special purpose?

In the heads of the various Immortal Soul Stage Elders were all sorts of ideas and calculations of the benefits and drawbacks.

At this point inside the Hidden Dragon Gorge, Shi Shaogan had already used the Dimension-less Transformation to avoid Yue Hongyan's Space-Destroying Space Technique, whereas his Crimson Light Dragon had already completely struck Yue Hongyan.

Shi Shaogan revealed a smile on his face.

The various cultivators outside the Hidden Dragon Gorge were all anxious, "Is there a winner? Was it a success? Will the Celestial Sect of Wonders' unbeaten streak end here?"

"Miss Hongyan, please, believe me, I am true to you..." Shi Shaogan was saying before his voice suddenly stopped as if someone cut him off. Only the echo could be heard.

Yue Hongyan's body was ignited with a bright red light and a storm was brewing. The magnitude of the storm gradually increased and resisted the attack of the Crimson Light Dragon.

Shi Shaogan blamed himself for being careless, "She did not use the Avicii Infernal Gale before. This is something I should have added in my calculations. Now that it is time for the result to be decided and I have already exposed my Dimension-less Transformation, there is no better opportunity to unleash it."

Just as he was thinking about this round where neither side could gain an advantage over the other, Shi Shaogan realized that something was not right.

Yue Hongyan's Space-Destroying Spear Technique should have missed its target, but it was presently just floating in mid-space and did not move at the last moment.

When the Space-Destroying Spear Technique was about to hit Shi Shaogan, he unleashed his Dimension-less Transformation and converted his body to an illusion, effectively hiding himself in space.

But at the same time, Yue Hongyan stopped the attack of the Space-Destroying Spear Technique and the destructive power within it that was about to explode.

The all-engulfing black hole stopped quietly in its tracks in mid-space, in front of him. It was barely one centimeter away from his chest.

Yue Hongyan's looked calmed and her lips lightly opened, "Your mantra allows your body to avoid the attack, but your position cannot be shifted!"

Shi Shaogan's expression became extremely pale because Yue Hongyan had found out about the biggest weakness of the Dimension-less Transformation. The biggest weakness of it was its inability to shift the user's position while he entered the illusory world, such that when he returned to the current dimension, he would still be in the exact same position.

Those who can flexibly shift their positions were only the Immortal Soul Stage Elders who were powerful enough.

With Shi Shaogan's power, the Dimension-less Transformation could only last for a short while. In the next moment, his body had already returned to the real world.

At the same time, the static Space-Destroying Spear Technique started to move again and accurately hit the chest of Shi Shaogan.

The self-defensive mechanism of the Hidden Dragon Gorge helped Shi Shaogan to cushion the hit and announced his defeat.

The battle between the both had only ensued for a short period of time. It was almost just a few blinks of the eye before the victor was decided.

But the risks and strategies involved, as well as the competition between the different mantras had lasted several rounds. Both Yue Hongyan and Shi Shaogan had alternated between moments of life and death.

Shi Shaogan thought that he had the upper hand, but who knew that Yue Hongyan matched his tactics and defeated him.

Shi Zongyue looked at Lin Feng in horror. The rest of the Immortal Soul Stage Elders also turned to look at Lin Feng. All their expressions were different, but they were equally confused.

Lin Feng felt the confusion from their gaze and smiled, "I had experienced the effects of this Dimension-less Transformation not long ago."

In the Sect-Opening Ceremony at Shazhou County, Pang Jie once avoided Lin Feng's lethal Heaven and Earth Destroyer. Having experienced it personally, he had a clear memory of the mana involved within this mantra.

Although Shi Shaogan had not used the Dimension-less Transformation previously, his cultivation of the mantra caused him to develop a certain mana similarity to the Great Void Sect.

Lin Feng felt that he had something to do with the Great Void Sect, but he was not sure that he possessed a specific mantra of the Great Void Sect.

Before Yue Hongyan entered the gorge, Lin Feng warned her out of caution and told her about the traits of a few of the Great Void Sect's top mantras, which included the Dimension-less Transformation.

However, honestly speaking, Lin Feng was a little lucky this time round. He was only guessing and was not entirely sure. After all, Shi Shaogan did not reveal anything before.

But this did not stop Lin Feng from taking this opportunity to act dumb in front of the various Immortal Soul Stage Elders and boosted his image as an unpredictable person.

Indeed, as Shi Zongyue and the rest looked at Lin Feng, they were a little more cautious.

After Yue Hongyan and Shi Shaogan exited the Hidden Dragon Gorge, the next round of battle between Wang Lin and Dao Yuting was about to begin.

Lin Feng scanned his surroundings and saw that Cao Wei was

also looking at him. As their gazes met, there were fireworks igniting from within them.

Chapter 293: The Intentions are Unclear.

After exiting the Hidden Dragon Gorge, Yue Hongyan creased her brows and returned in front of Lin Feng. Although she had emerged victorious, she was not feeling good.

"What is wrong with Shi Shaogan? That was ridiculous from him!" She said frustratingly.

Zhu Yi, Xiao Budian and the rest of the disciples were unclear of what to say. They wanted to laugh but could not laugh either. They did not know how to explain it to her.

They felt that this matter was silly too and they were amused.

Tuntun said, "What else is there? He is trying to matchmake himself with you. It was so obvious."

"Kekekeke..." The surroundings were filled with a coughing sound. Xiao Budian slapped her unceremoniously, "You have converted to human form, can you at least speak like a person?"

Yue Hongyan overheard that and her brows creased. She stared ferociously at her.

Zhuge Fengling added on hurriedly, "It was not that exaggerated. He simply just has a crush on you and wanted your love. It was just that...this is not a proper venue for him to do that."

Yue Hongyan's rage did not go away, "So it seems he is a lecher."

"Even if this is the case, it is too ridiculous already. I have never even spoken to him before."

Zhuge Fengling laughed, "Love at first sight."

Lin Feng was watching from one side and he pursed his lips, thinking, "That guy will fall in love at first sight with every beauty he sees. No, more accurately speaking, he falls in love at first sight with every beauty whose powers he approves of."

He looked in the direction of Dao Yuting from the Heaven Lake Sect and sighed, "It has to be my disciple who faces her."

Shi Xingyun also saw Dao Yuting and realized that her expression was per normal. She also sighed in her heart, "If it was her, things may not be so messy."

As she listened to the cultivators from other sects mumbling to themselves, Shi Xingyun felt extremely embarrassed.

She looked at Shi Shaogan annoyingly. Although he had lost, he maintained the same cool expression as he exited the Hidden Dragon Gorge. He was just a little lost and walked over to Shi Xingyun, whispering, "Sister, what has happened?"

Ask yourself what happened!

Shi Xingyun wanted to abandon her ladylike image, grab him by the collar and spat on his face. But as she saw that Shi Shaogan was a little lost and did not seem to think that whatever he did previously was wrong, she felt weak.

After that, she saw Shi Shaogan looking at Yue Hongyan regretfully, causing her to shake her head and sigh.

But he regained his spirits after a while. He looked at Dao Yuting and felt that she was very mysterious.

...It was exactly the same as how he looked at Yue Hongyan.

Shi Xingyun saw this and pulled him to herself immediately. She felt helpless.

This brother of hers could confess to a lady in one second and say the same thing to another lady in the next second. What was worst was that he could do that in front of the first lady.

He did not think that anything was wrong with that. In his opinion, he thought that this was natural.

Shi Xingyun sighed while looking up. At many times, she wished that Shi Shaogan was actually a Casanova. Even though that might be bad, at least it was more normal than who he was now.

But even though Shi Shaogan wanted to confess for a second time, he had to wait for Dao Yuting and Wang Lin's battle to conclude first.

The second match of the round, between Wang Lin and Dao Yuting, was about to start.

Everyone walked towards the Hidden Dragon Gorge, while the elders soared up to watch the competition.

Although there was tension between Lin Feng and Cao Wei, Lin Feng managed to keep calm.

More accurately speaking, he had to keep a calm mind to ponder over other matters. This was because Cao Wei was acting strangely for the first time.

Lin Feng could not sense the aura of an Immortal Soul Stage Elder from him. He was acting like a ruffian, as he was being overly competitive.

But to claim that Cao Wei was such a person, Lin Feng did not believe that he could have made it this far and become the leader of the Heaven Lake Sect with that behavior.

As a matter of fact, Lin Feng had observed the competition between him and Prince Xian of the Left from the Northern Tribes. He could gather a few clues and concluded that this guy was not as reckless as he seemed.

Cao Wei's present movements seemed to be distracting people around him and covering up his true intentions.

Wagering on his own disciples was something that Cao Wei was likely to initiate. From Cao Wei's actions of nitpicking on him, Lin Feng deduced that he might be trying to gain something out of this.

"Fire and Ice Fruit?" Lin Feng slightly creased his brows, "It should not be the case. This thing may be miraculous, but to treat it as some kind of treasure will be over the top."

Lin Feng pondered for a moment and felt that the Fire and Ice Fruit could be Cao Wei's method of foreshadowing any future actions. Although this thing was useful to him, it was only a minor tool for him.

But Cao Wei's movements also revealed that his true target may have something to do with the Fire and Ice Fruit.

He could have discovered the aura of the Fire and Ice Fruit from Changchun Peak. The thing that he was seeking after could have something to do with Changchun Peak.

Lin Feng had a dim idea, but he was not entirely sure, "This old bird, what does he really want?"

Although he had a lot of ideas in his head, Lin Feng maintained a

calm expression. He watched as Wang Lin and Dao Yuting entered the Hidden Dragon Gorge.

On the other side, Cao Wei looked over aggressively. Lin Feng stared back at him, causing the tension between both parties to rise.

The Blue Pavilion Holy Man looked at Lin Feng before looking at Cao Wei and he thought to himself, "Both of them are sect leaders, but they are acting so childish. How is that acceptable?"

"Hearsay that Cao Wei is someone who exhibits propriety. When he conversed with Lin Feng previously, he had displayed a little of his temperament. Now that the both of them are like that, is there something going on behind the scenes? Or do they have some kind of hatred between themselves?"

Shi Zongyue and the rest looked at Lin Feng and Cao Wei, pondering over what ensued between the both of them. They all maintained their silence and observed what was going on.

Prince Xian of the Left from the Northern Tribes was especially curious. As he looked at Lin Feng and Cao Wei, he started to smile.

The Gambling Holy Man coughed lightly, before saying, "Do the both of you want to lay down a wager again?"

Cao Wei raised his brows, "Of course."

Lin Feng laughed, "Wager? You miss my Fire and Ice Fruit?"

Cao Wei's gaze flashed and he did not reply to the question, "What wager do you want to lay again?"

Lin Feng thought for a moment before saying, "I have long heard that the Heaven Lake Snow Fields has a volcano opening. Inside the volcano and deep within the lava contains a rare flower called the Geocentric Fire Lotus. If my disciple wins, we shall use that as the stake, how about that?"

Cao Wei agreed, "No problem."

Lin Feng laughed, "Do not accept it so readily. Let me say first, the Geocentric Fire Lotus that I want is not just a flower."

"The roots, stem and the lotus itself, I want it all. I want the entire package."

Cao Wei squinted his eyes, "Are you trying to take away the Geocentric Fire Lotus from the Heaven Lake Sect?"

"You can graft it too. As to how you want to protect that flower of yours, it depends on your ability." Lin Feng coolly said. "There is a break between the Foundation Establishment Stage and Aurous Core Stage competition. If you lose, you can use that time to gather the Geocentric Fire Lotus. I do not have so much time to go to the Heaven Lake with you."

The Immortal Soul Stage Elders came to watch the fun, but none of them could laugh at this point. Lin Feng and Cao Wei were both serious as the stake was too high.

Lin Feng did it intentionally as he wanted to know what Cao Wei wanted from him.

Cao Wei looked at Lin Feng quietly. After a few moments, he nodded his head, "Okay, if your disciple wins, the Geocentric Fire Lotus is yours."

"But if my disciple wins, I will go to Mount Yujing and cut a piece of the mountain rock to take away." Cao Wei stared at Lin Feng and said, "Do you dare to bet with me?"

The rest of the Immortal Soul Stage Elders were a little intrigued. Besides being the most fearless sect, the Celestial Sect of Wonders possesses Mount Yujing which could hide itself amongst space, in addition to Lin Feng's unpredictability. Besides hiding itself, Mount Yujing can also be shifted to various other locations.

Lin Feng looked at Cao Wei and his pupil shrank. His expression did not change and he replied, "I will go with that bet."

The key to Mount Yujing's ability to shift around in space was due to the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree at the peak of the mountain.

The power concept of Mount Yujing had something to do with

time and space. Lin Feng was also exploring that at the moment.

But Cao Wei's desire to go to Mount Yujing to cut a piece of the mountain rock left Lin Feng confused. That was because that had nothing to do with the Fire and Ice Fruit.

This left Lin Feng with nothing as he tried to test Cao Wei's true intentions.

At the end, Lin Feng still could not figure out Cao Wei's true intentions.

"Do not tell me that my guess is wrong?" Lin Feng thought, "His intention has nothing to do with the Hengduan Mountains and the Fire and Ice Fruit?"

"No, he came to Hengduan Mountains from the Northern Snow Fields for a reason. It is just that he can hold his temperament and not leak anything out, for fear of catching my suspicion."

Lin Feng was indignant, "But I do not believe you can keep it under wraps forever."

After both parties had confirmed the bet, the battle between Wang Lin and Dao Yuting in the Hidden Dragon Gorge had also started. It was heated right from the start.

Facing Dao Yuting who was in the advanced stage of the Foundation Establishment Stage, learned the mantras of the

Heaven Lake Sect and was extremely talented, Wang Lin entered the Destructive Stage of the River of Styx right from the beginning. All his powers were converted to the dark and powerful Destructive Powers, which reeked of destruction and disaster.

Dao Yuting did not conserve either. Pale white flames emerged from around her body. Although they were flames, they revealed a chilly aura. It was the signature abhijna of the Heaven Lake Sect, Icy Blaze.

As she controlled the Icy Blaze, Dao Yuting made an unpredictable move. As she made her move at the start, she also dashed straight towards Wang Lin.

Chapter 294: Increasing the Stake

As the audience outside the Hidden Dragon Gorge observed Dao Yuting dashing straight towards Wang Lin without any hesitation, they all creased their brows.

From the previous competitions, Wang Lin had already fully displayed the dominant prowess of his Destructive Powers of the River of Styx. Its destructive abilities were shocking, while the mantras of the Finger of Styx and the Road to River Styx were equally mysterious and powerful.

To others, Dao Yuting seemed reckless for dashing towards Wang Lin.

Only the members of the Celestial Sect of Wonders became extremely serious when they witnessed this scene.

Xiao Budian slightly tilted his head, "Can she tell, or is it the advice from her seniors and elders?"

Zhu Yi looked at the expressions of the cultivators from the Heaven Lake Sect, before saying, "It seems like she thought of it herself."

Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing were silent, but they looked markedly more serious as they looked at Dao Yuting.

This was because Dao Yuting's current attack method was

seemingly reckless, but in fact, it was targeting Wang Lin's weakest point.

His mantra was powerful, but his flesh was weak.

Among Lin Feng's six Immediate Disciples, Xiao Budian had the toughest flesh. He was the most adept at close-quarters combat.

Whereas Wang Lin did not even practice any physical martial arts. Even Yang Qing was better than him in this area.

Wang Lin and Yang Qing were not adept at physical martial arts. They specialized in mantras. However, erecting the Spiritual Altar and promoting to the Middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Stage and using the Grand Moon Primordial Water had nourished his flesh and soul.

Whereas for Wang Lin, besides his weakness in physical martial arts, his flesh was also corroded by the River Styx Primordial Water and the Destructive Stage of the River of Styx. Strictly speaking, Wang Lin's body strength was slightly weaker than an average cultivator in the Foundation Establishment Stage.

It was just that Wang Lin's mantras were powerful and it had always been him terrorizing his opponents. Not many of the cultivators in the same stage could handle his attacks. Before they could even retaliate, they would have lost already.

To find a cultivator like Huo Chen that could handle the Lone

Death Thumb was already very rare.

That was why very few cultivators in the same level dared to get close to Wang Lin and engaged in close quarters combat.

It was obvious that Dao Yuting was harboring such an idea.

What made Xiao Budian and the rest more worried was that her plan might be pulled off successfully.

The Icy Blaze spread and resisted Wang Lin's Destructive Powers. In terms of quality and strength, Wang Lin's Destructive Powers was slightly more powerful. However, he did not promote to the intermediate stage of the Foundation Establishment Stage and erect a Spiritual altar, hence his cultivation was still inferior to Dao Yuting.

Under such a circumstance, Dao Yuting did not attack. She focused her Icy Blaze for defensive purposes. The Destructive Powers were unable to be overcome in a short period of time.

The distance between both parties was close. Given Dao Yuting's speed, she could reach him in a blink of an eye.

Given her speed at closing in, it seemed as if she was not that skilled in physical martial arts either.

Compared to the men in the Northern Tribes, she would be on the losing end. But it was enough to fight Wang Lin. If she could

get close to Wang Lin, Wang Lin would be trounced.

Even Xiao Budian and the rest could tell the problem. As the protagonist, how could Wang Lin not tell?

He knew Dao Yuting's intentions right from the start. After all, it was his own weakness and he was the clearest about it. Wang Lin's development of his style of asserting high pressure on his opponents was, in fact, a way of covering his flaw.

As Dao Yuting attacked ferociously, Wang Lin was calm. He conjured a spell from both his hands and unleashed the Destructive Powers of the River of Styx.

Suddenly, a black-yellow path appeared in space and stretched very far across. It was the Road to River Styx.

As the Road to River Styx surfaced, Dao Yuting landed on the top of it. The powers of Samsara attacked her soul repeatedly.

To a cultivator in the Foundation Establishment Stage, this was a move that was difficult to resist. This was because the soul of a cultivator in either the Foundation Establishment Stage or the Qi Cultivation Stage was unstable. Under the attack of the powers of Samsara, it was very easy to be drowned in one's own broken memories.

Lin Feng saw this scene and raised his brows suddenly.

He could feel that Dao Yuting was influenced minimally by the powers of Samsara.

There were two explanations. First was that her soul was extremely stable and had already surpassed the level of a Foundation Establishment Stage cultivator. The other explanation was that her body had some sort of secret.

With Lin Feng's current cultivation, he could tell that the soul of Dao Yuting was still at the level of a Foundation Establishment Stage. There was nothing special about it.

Then it must be the second explanation, that her body was something special.

Wang Lin's expression also changed. From his expression, Lin Feng could tell what was happening.

He realized that Dao Yuting's broken memories were very little.

Wang Lin's low level of cultivation caused his abhijna to be of a rather low level. But he was still able to know how much of broken memories his opponent had, be it in the present or past lifetime, as he exhibited the spell.

Right now, in front of Wang Lin, the effects on Dao Yuting's soul was far lesser than that compared to a normal person.

Huo Chen had broken memories that were seven to eight times

more than Dao Yuting.

Dao Yuting had very little broken memories not because she experienced very little things, but it was because her memories were already incomplete.

Especially her memories of the past lifetime, which was very little and they were only bits and pieces.

"Weird person." Wang Lin muttered in his heart, but he knew that he was in a precarious situation.

As the broken memories were little, the attack on her soul by the powers of Samsara would be quickly relieved and she would be less confused.

The effect of the Road to River Styx on Dao Yuting was very minimal.

As expected, Dao Yuting quickly regained her awareness. But it was just that her gaze contained something different, but it was unclear.

But this did not affect her judgment. As she faced the white claws trying to pull her into the black-yellow soil, Dao Yuting muttered a spell under her breath and white icy fog started to surround her body.

The secret mantra of the Heaven Lake Sect, the Burning Ice.

The white fog came into contact with the claws and soil and it was converted to a big fire instantaneously, which burned vigorously. It was threatening to destroy Wang Lin's Road to River Styx.

As the cultivators outside the Hidden Dragon Gorge saw this, they held their breath.

The Burning Ice could convert an opponent's mantra to its own fuel and continually increase its firepower. As the opponent's power got increasingly stronger, the fire would get increasingly stronger too.

As the opponent increased his own power to resist the Burning Ice, it would be the same as adding firewood to the fire and increased the strength of the Burning Ice. It was like aiding the opponent as more powers were invested.

For a cultivator in the Foundation Establishment Stage to learn such a move was too much already.

But Wang Lin was still fearless. He watched as Dao Yuting displayed her Burning Ice expressionlessly. His only reaction was to maximize the power of the Destructive Powers of the River of Styx. Dark and concentrated destructive gas continued to flood the Road to River Styx.

"Is he an idiot? He clearly knows that would increase the strength of the Burning Ice." Fang Zhong commented outside the Hidden

Dragon Gorge.

Within the Great Qin Empire camp, Shi Shaogan looked at Dao Yuting. He looked curiously and muttered some words under his breath.

Shi Xingyun warned him while asking Jiao Junchen, "What do you see?"

Jiao Junchen blinked, "The Celestial Sect of Wonders is about to win again."

Shi Xingyun nodded her head, "Dao Yuting's jinx could be Wang Lin."

The rest of the audience realized that Wang Lin continuous increment of power on the Road to River Styx was not to fuel Dao Yuting's Burning Ice.

On the other hand, Dao Yuting's creation of the fire was gradually being repressed by the Road to River Styx. Initially, it could convert the opponent's power into its fuel. However, the fire had lost its desired effect.

The Immortal Soul Stage Elders were all quiet. The Blue Pavilion Holy Man slightly nodded, "His cultivation is only in the Foundation Establishment Stage, but he is able to understand the power concept of the Destructive Powers. This is rare."

Prince Xian of the Left laughed loudly and looked at Cao Wei, "Destructive Powers is of course used to destroy matter. Now that your Heaven Lake Sect's Burning Ice has encountered it, it is a miracle that it is not destroyed. How dare it try to engulf it instead? What a joke."

Cao Wei replied, "The result is uncertain. It may be too early to say anything."

Lin Feng looked him in the eye and said suddenly, "Since this is the case, I shall add another stake to this. I wonder if Master Cao is able to accept it?"

Cao Wei was a little disturbed and looked at Lin Feng, "What do you want to add?"

Lin Feng said, "I have always heard that the Snow Fields bloom with Nine-Circled Ice Orchids. If my disciple wins this round, will Master Cao add on the Nine-Circled Ice Orchid?"

Cao Wei slightly creased his brows. The Nine-Circled Ice Orchid was not some special flower. Its value was limited, but it was very rare.

With his Immortal Soul Stage cultivation, it was an easy feat for him to pick the orchid. The key laid in the tedious process of finding it. But sending his disciples to do the job would be considered very cowardly.

Cao Wei stared at Lin Feng for a moment and replied, "Can, but since this is the case, I will like to increase the stake also."

"If my disciple wins, besides the mountain rock, I want to add on a branch from the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree on Mount Yujing.

Lin Feng looked at him and smiled, "It is a deal."

With this new wager, the bet between both leaders became even more intense. Inside the Hidden Dragon Gorge, Wang Lin and Dao Yuting's battle experienced a new change and the intensity rose.

After the Burning Ice was kept under control by Wang Lin, Dao Yuting shouted softly and the crucible in her body roared. Her entire mana was activated.

All the mana in her body started to gather together.

Chapter 295: Wang Lin's Third Finger

Although the mantra of the Burning Ice was ineffective, Dao Yuting was not worried. As she shouted softly, the external mana was recalled back into her body.

Regardless of the Icy Blaze or the white fog, they were all quickly gathered back into Dao Yuting's body.

Wang Lin noticed Dao Yuting's change at first glance and he thought to himself, "This is very familiar!"

Lin Feng's pupil also shrank. Along with Zhu Yi, the rest of the Celestial Sect of Wonders disciples all looked at Yang Qing.

Yang Qing muttered, "What she is doing is very similar to my Grand Moon Flash Flood Mantra..."

The rest of the cultivators also noticed some clues, "Besides the Burning Ice Mantra, this lady has even cultivated the Song of the Volcano?"

Dao Yuting was indeed using a special abhijna of the Heaven Lake Sect, the Song of the Volcano!

It had the same miraculous effect as Yang Qing's Flash Flood Mantra, which was to gather one's entire mana instantaneously. After that, it could be exploded out in one shot, causing extraordinary destruction. It was as if a volcano erupted and an

earthquake occurred.

What was different between the Song of the Volcano and the Grand Moon Flash Flood Mantra was that the Song of the Volcano could accommodate the special traits of other mantras.

The Song of the Volcano was like the eruption of a volcano. Whereas the rest of the Heaven Lake Sect's mantra, such as the Icy Blaze and the Burning Ice, were similar to the lava that gushed out after the eruption of a volcano.

As if they were using the Song of the Volcano as a carrier, many of these mantras could be unleashed at the same time. Furthermore, due to the potential of the Song of the Volcano, the mantras that were unleashed could receive a huge increment in their power, much beyond their normal state.

Within the Heaven Lake Sect, it was a mantra that was much more powerful than the Burning Ice.

This was Dao Yuting's killer move and the reason why Cao Wei dared to wager with Lin Feng.

As the Gambling Holy Man saw this scene, he sighed and looked at Cao Wei, "Master Cao, this disciple of yours has a bright future."

Cao Wei nodded slightly and expressed his thanks, before turning his head to look at Lin Feng again, "I will have to trouble you to guide me through Mount Yujing."

Dao Yuting's Song of the Volcano suddenly exploded out in all directions, causing a blast countless times stronger than the Icy Blaze and white fog.

Under such a vigorous explosion of mana, Dao Yuting was still able to control herself and prevent her power from dissipating. She also managed to focus the entire explosion towards Wang Lin.

Initially, Dao Yuting had a slightly higher level of mana compared to Wang Lin. But with the Song of the Volcano, her powers were increased to an even higher level. She managed to overcome Wang Lin's Road to River Styx as she overwhelmed him.

The crumbling Road to River Styx foreshadowed Wang Lin's failure.

The Heaven Lake Sect disciples all cheered while the other cultivators were excited.

They might not be good friends with the Heaven Lake Sect, but they supported Dao Yuting because the victor in the previous round was Yue Hongyan.

If Wang Lin won this round, the top two Foundation Establishment Stage cultivators would be from the Celestial Sect of Wonders. The final would just be a sparring between Wang Lin and Yue Hongyan.

Most of them did not want to see this. Firstly, it was too meaningless. Secondly, the dominance of the Celestial Sect of Wonders unsettled many.

Dao Yuting was never fully confident of her victory. She continued to remain calm. She knew her Song of the Volcano mantra well and that was why she knew it had its own flaw.

After displaying one's skills, the cultivator's mana would be depleted. For a long period of time, the cultivator would lose the power to engage in battle again. That was why using the Song of the Volcano was a make or break situation.

That was why Dao Yuting did not have any ideas of relaxing. Rather, she used the Song of the Volcano to prolong the battle and closed in on Wang Lin. This was the most reliable method she could use to win.

Although Dao Yuting was skilled in both her mantras and fighting skills, her main skill was still her mantras. In terms of her physical martial arts, she was far behind Yue Hongyan, Zhamu Zeluo, etc. But for Wang Lin, it was sufficient enough.

She exploited the final moment as the Song of the Volcano exploded out to get close to Wang Lin. As she raised her hand, she consolidated her remaining mana into an Ice Blade, using it to stab Wang Lin in the chest.

Her blade skills were magnificent and it blocked off Wang Lin's route of escape.

The speed of the blade was quick and did not give Wang Lin any chance to dodge.

With her power, she could destroy Wang Lin's defense.

This stab of hers was bound to kill!

Wang Lin was fearful and he clenched his lips tightly. He stared hard at Dao Yuting's Ice Blade. He could not avoid the blade, but he never thought of doing so. His courage was unparalleled in the face of death.

"The Celestial Finger of Styx, destroy!" Wang Lin did not bother about Dao Yuting's Ice Blade and pointed his right finger out.

Instantaneously, a black space of deathly destructive gas engulfed Dao Yuting.

As she had expended her mana, Dao Yuting was unable to avoid Wang Lin's Lone Death Thumb!

Dao Yuting was fearless and looked coldly at Wang Lin.

Even though the both of them were in the face of death, they did not back off. They stared at each other as if time and space had frozen.

"Perish together?" Everyone opened their eyes wide and stared at the battle in the Hidden Dragon Gorge, unwilling to miss any of the action.

"Not together!" One highly cultivated individual made his judgment, "Before Wang Lin's Destructive Powers killed Dao Yuting, Dao Yuting's Ice Blade had already cut Wang Lin's throat!"

Jiao Junchen said firmly, "If this was a real battle, the ending would be the both of them perishing together. But now that they are in the Hidden Dragon Gorge, it will allow them to survive. But the mechanism can help to differentiate between the order, which allows us to determine the winner!"

"The winner of this round is Dao Yuting from the Heaven Lake Sect. The Celestial Sect of Wonders has lost!"

Shi Xingyun stared at the Hidden Dragon Gorge, saying, "The Celestial Sect of Wonders has finally lost?"

The Celestial Sect of Wonders was going to lose!

A commotion ensued at the venue. Everyone was excited and did not even dare to blink. They were waiting for the self-defense mechanism to be activated, which would allow them to determine the result.

It was confirmed that the Celestial Sect of Wonders lost.

The legend that the disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders in the same realm were invincible had been broken!

No one bothered about the fact that Dao Yuting was in the advanced stage while Wang Lin was only in the beginner stage of the Foundation Establishment Stage. If it was a real battle, the ending result should have been the both of them perishing together.

They would only remember that the legend about the Celestial Sect of Wonders had finally became history!

Everyone focused their attention to look at, to look at.... Wang Lin stretching out his left hand along with his Lone Death Thumb on his right hand. But he did not point it at Dao Yuting, but himself.

Oh?

What was happening?

Everyone was in shock and even the elders in the Immortal Soul Stage and the Aurous Core Stage were stunned.

Wang Lin looked at the Ice Blade that was across his throat and he whispered softly as if he was sleep-talking.

"Celestial Finger of Styx, reborn!"

Ever since Wang Lin comprehended the Celestial Finger of Styx, he had never truly completed the third finger. However, at this point in the Hidden Dragon Gorge, he had finally revealed it.

Black gas started to surge out from Wang Lin's body and gathered at the area which was cut by the Ice Blade. They mended the wound as if they were needle threads.

In the next moment, a black light flashed and Wang Lin's body was repaired completely. It was as if he was never cut by Dao Yuting.

The self-defense mechanism of the Hidden Dragon Gorge did not activate because the repair mechanism by Wang Lin was a step quicker. The Hidden Dragon Gorge judged that Wang Lin would not die by Dao Yuting's attack, thus there was no activation.

Everyone outside the gorge were stunned, "How is it possible?!"

Were they seeing things?

But it was too ridiculous to say that everyone was seeing things, wasn't it?

"Do not tell us that Wang Lin could not die?"

Wang Lin was not immortal. The Finger of Rebirth had a lot of

restrictions to it and Wang Lin could only use it once in a long while. But it was already sufficient for him.

The Immortal Soul Stage Elders looked quietly at Wang Lin. After a while, Shi Zongyue sighed, "Besides the power concept of destruction, he has also comprehended the power concept of life?"

Life and destruction were the two most powerful things at their roots. For someone to comprehend it, it was his good fortune. Even for an Immortal Soul Stage Elder, that was the case.

But they had just witnessed a cultivator in the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Stage doing it. This made the Immortal Soul Stage Elders lament about it.

The Sword Radiance Swordmaster suddenly spoke, "There is no need for any more competition. The strongest disciple in the Foundation Establishment Stage is Wang Lin for sure."

He looked at Lin Feng, "Congratulations to Master Lin."

"You are too kind." Lin Feng slightly smiled and he looked at Wang Lin.

Inside the gorge, Wang Lin watched as the power of his Lone Death Thumb engulfed Dao Yuting. The Destructive Powers was starting to take effect. Dao Yuting was unable to resist it and could only watch as the Hidden Dragon Gorge saved her using its self-defense mechanism.

She became very pale but continued to stare at Wang Lin. She was unrelenting. But as she revealed an indifferent expression, a few of her emotions were also revealed.

Respect, indignance, shock, curiosity...various emotions flashed across her gaze. Eventually, it stopped at stubbornness. She continued to stare hard at Wang Lin without caving in.

Wang Lin continued to look at her quietly but suddenly said something.

"As an opponent, you are pretty good."

Chapter 296: Intense Start but Disappointing Ending

After hearing Wang Lin's comments, Dao Yuting was furious. However, she noticed that Wang Lin was serious beneath the calm exterior, but was unable to speak.

As the result had been determined, Dao Yuting activated the self-defense mechanism of the Hidden Dragon Gorge as she faced Wang Lin's Lone Death Thumb. Whereas Wang Lin used his Finger of Rebirth to avert Dao Yuting's Ice Blade. There was a thin line between victory and loss.

Wang Lin was actually taking a huge risk here. The Finger of Rebirth needed the appropriate conditions for it to work practically. If they were just a little bit off, failure would be the result.

Under Lin Feng's guidance, Wang Lin comprehended the Destructive Powers and started to study the power concept of life. Recently, he managed to understand a few parts relating to it and completed his third finger of the Celestial Finger of Styx, the Finger of Rebirth.

This mantra was used to assist the injured and its main purpose was to help this group of people.

Under the power of life creation, it could be used to treat injuries. It could even bring someone back from the brink of death.

But that was only perfect theoretically. Practically, Wang Lin's cultivation had to be taken into consideration and the other party's extent of injury also had to be considered.

The principle of the Finger of Rebirth was to maximize the potential of the Destructive Powers. The forceful interaction of the extremes allowed the Destructive gas helped to boost the power of life and prolonged the longevity of a person.

Therefore, after using the Finger of Rebirth, Wang Lin's mana would be depleted. Even after a long time, he would still be unable to enter the Destructive Stage of the River of Styx

This mantra could be used on Wang Lin himself. Besides preventing any wastage of mana, the effect would be even more pronounced.

But it was extremely difficult to grasp the perfect timing.

If it was used too soon, it would be a waste. If it was used too late, the person would be dead. As the mana was depleted, the mantra would be completely useless.

It had to be used at a perfect timing when the enemy was about to inflict a blow, so as to achieve its desired effect.

It was only the first time that Wang Lin had used the Finger of Rebirth. He was very fortunate to have pulled it off. That was why

he was in awe of Dao Yuting, who had pushed him to the limit.

Previously when he faced Dao Yuting's Ice Blade, Wang Lin retaliated with the Lone Death Thumb. His offensive attack was actually a daring move. He wanted to see if Dao Yuting would waver first and see who feared death less.

Even with the protection of the Hidden Dragon Gorge, most people would automatically enter self-defense mode in the face of death.

But Dao Yuting was able to curb her urge to self-defend. She did not waver and attacked Wang Lin, ready to wager her life with him.

Eventually, if it not were for Wang Lin's Finger of Rebirth, he would have lost to Dao Yuting.

To Wang Lin, this battle was very fruitful to his development.

Outside the Hidden Dragon Gorge, the Sword Radiance Swordmaster came up with a conclusion, that Wang Lin was the strongest Foundation Establishment Stage cultivator in the spiritual conference.

The rest of the Immortal Soul Stage Elders were silent, but they looked like they agreed with that statement.

Everyone at the venue heard the words of Sword Radiance

Swordmaster and they did not react well to that.

Even if they were indignant, it was pointless. That was because the final battle was between Wang Lin and Yue Hongyan.

Even if Wang Lin lost, the Celestial Sect of Wonders would still be the talk of the town.

Lin Feng looked at Cao Wei and Cao Wei looked back at him calmly. He nodded his head and wriggled his sleeves. A light dimension appeared in the sky and revealed the figure of an old person.

As the old person saw Cao Wei, he bowed towards and greeted him, "Master, what instructions do you have for me?"

Cao Wei replied, "Graft the Geocentric Fire Lotus from the volcano opening and send it to me at the Great Qin Sea of the Northern Wind. At the same time, find the Nine-Circled Orchid for me and send it over too."

The old person was shocked but did not probe. He hesitated for awhile before bowing, "I shall carry out your wishes, Master."

As the light dimension disappeared, Cao Wei continued to look nonchalant and looked at Wang Lin and Dao Yuting as they exited the Hidden Dragon Gorge.

Lin Feng smiled, "Old man, it is okay if I cannot dig out your

intentions first time round. There is always a second try."

When he suggested to increase their stake, he was actually testing Cao Wei. He wanted to find out what Cao Wei was after.

Eventually, Cao Wei wanted the branch of the Black Heavenly Treasure Tree. This was fitting with the mountain rock from Mount Yujing, but it made Lin Feng even more certain that Cao Wei was just trying to distract him.

His true intention was different.

Lin Feng had a wild guess but he was unable to prove it. But he was not frantic, as he knew that Cao Wei would reveal his intentions sooner or later if he really wanted it.

Wang Lin exited the Hidden Dragon Gorge and walked towards the holding area of the Celestial Sect of Wonders. The other cultivators looked at him with perplexed expressions.

Out of Lin Feng's disciples who took part in this Foundation Establishment Stage competition, the one who elicited the biggest reaction after his victory was undoubtedly Wang Lin.

Furthermore, his cultivation was only in the beginner stage of the Foundation Establishment Stage and he had not even erected a spiritual altar. On the other hand, all his opponents were already in the advanced stage of the Foundation Establishment Stage. They were all elites in the same realm and were only a step away from

forming the Aurous Core.

Under such a circumstance, Wang Lin was still able to overcome all his opponents. His dominance was a testament to the invincibility of the disciples of the Celestial Sect of Wonders in the same realm.

The overwhelming feeling he brought was more intense than Yue Hongyan or Yang Qing.

Jiao Junchen looked at Wang Lin curiously and his line of vision drifted towards Zhu Yi, "Initially when they say Zhu Yi could defeat an Immortal Soul Stage Elder even if he was only in the beginner stage of the Aurous Core Stage, I was skeptical."

"Now that I have witnessed his junior's performance, I am convinced." He revealed a smile on his face, "I am excited to spar with a Celestial Sect of Wonders disciple."

Shi Xingyun wanted to say something, but she realized that Shi Shaogan was staring at Dao Yuting. She pulled Shi Shaogan away and turned to look at Jiao Junchen, laughing, "I hope you get what you wish, but I certainly hope not to spar with them."

"I am more willing to fight with Tao Yaoyao for three hundred rounds instead."

Jiao Junchen laughed, "I am afraid Tao Yaoyao has a different thought about that."

Wang Lin was indifferent to the opinions and stares of others, but creased his brows, as if he was thinking of something.

After he returned back to Lin Feng, he regained his awareness. He greeted Lin Feng and suddenly said, "Master, I have gained a new understanding on the power concepts of life and destruction. I wish to meditate to gain an even deeper understanding."

"I will like to forfeit the last round."

After he finished speaking, Xiao Budian and the rest were a little taken aback, but they were also understanding of his decision.

They understood that Wang Lin was dying to comprehend the logic behind the new mantra that he had just used, as they all had the same experience before.

Furthermore, if he did not take the opportunity to grasp the sudden realization, it would be difficult to explore it again.

Only Yue Hongyan was a little disappointed. After watching the battle between Wang Lin and Dao Yuting, her adrenaline was rushing and she was looking forward to sparring him. She believed that it would be an even more intense battle compared to the previous round with Shi Shaogan.

However, Yue Hongyan could understand Wang Lin's rationale.

"Fourth Junior, after using the Finger of Rebirth, I am now unable to enter the Destructive Stage of the River of Styx. Even if I spar with you, it would be meaningless."

Wang Lin looked at Yue Hongyan apologetically. Only when facing his own sect members did he reveal his true emotions.

Speaking from the bottom of his heart, Wang Lin was not a nice opponent to spar with. But he could sympathize with her, which made him a little regretful.

He did not care about his own personal fame either. After all, the Celestial Sect of Wonders' reputation was established regardless of the final result.

It was not that he was entirely selfless and without desire. It was just that he was unconcerned about such materialistic fame.

Yue Hongyan nodded her head regretfully, but she still smiled. "I hope that you can achieve something out of your meditation, Third Senior."

Wang Lin smiled and nodded his head. He looked towards Lin Feng, who smiled and tapped his finger lightly. A Celestial Small World created by Purple Clouds was formed and Wang Lin was fitted inside.

It was like an independent world on its own. As Wang Lin meditated inside, he would not be disturbed.

Lin Feng kept the Celestial Small World well and explained the situation to Shi Zongyue and the rest.

The Gambling Holy Man slightly creased his brows, "Is he so excited for it?"

Lin Feng nodded his head and said, "We are all cultivators. I am sure we all have had such an experience."

Although the Immortal Soul Stage Elders were taken aback, they still accepted Lin Feng's explanation.

In this way, Yue Hongyan had become the champion of the Foundation Establishment Stage competition in the Huanghai Spiritual Conference.

The cultivators from the various sects gathered and discussed about the competition.

After the Celestial Sect of Wonders bagged the first two placings, everyone was preparing to witness another internal competition between the Celestial Sect of Wonders. For now, they could only accept such a result. It was an intense start, but a disappointing ending.

After all, they could not ask Dao Yuting or Shi Shaogan to battle Yue Hongyan. Even if the Great Qin Empire or Heaven Lake Sect were thick-skinned enough, they also could not say such words.

As Shi Zongyue tapped the Hidden Dragon Gorge lightly, the Hidden Dragon Gorge enlarged by several times. It was now as huge as a mountain.

"As with the previous years, the spiritual conference will pause for some time." Shi Zongyue said as he pointed at the Hidden Dragon Gorge. "After this, all of you can move freely. If you want to trade with one another, please enter the Hidden Dragon Gorge. The Aurous Core Stage competition will begin tomorrow."

He turned his head to look at Lin Feng and the rest of the Immortal Soul Stage Elders, "Let them move around and interact with one another. All of you please follow me to the opening of the Ancient Huanghai World."

Chapter 297: Take a Gamble and Cut the Rock!

Yue Hongyan's crowning as the champion of the Foundation Establishment Stage competition left many people unhappy.

But the matter of fact was, the result would be the same even if Wang Lin fought Yue Hongyan, as he could not enter the Destructive Stage of the River of Styx.

However, most of the people did not recognize this point. Many of them lamented, "Dao Yuting should just be the winner."

Before Wang Lin sparred with Dao Yuting, a huge portion of the people had wished for Dao Yuting to defeat Wang Lin and Yue Hongyan.

One reason was that they did not want the Celestial Sect of Wonders to be too dominant and allowed the final to be an internal competition.

Another reason was that many of them wanted to see a fight between Yue Hongyan and Dao Yuting.

Yue Hongyan was a passionate fighter, who first overcame the sword duo of the Sun Moon Sword Sect. After that, she gained an advantage over her equally special junior, Yang Qing. Following that, she defeated Shi Shaogan from the Great Qin Empire.

Yue Hongyan's journey to the final was intense and got even more exciting along the way. At the end, she was unstoppable as she blazed through to the final.

Whereas Dao Yuting was a very cool person. Similarly, she defeated a sword pairing of the Sun Moon Sword Sect in the first round. After that, she overcame an arch-enemy cultivator from the Northern Tribes using the Burning Ice.

The battle with Wang Lin enabled her to push to her limits, as she tapped on her Song of the Volcano. Eventually, she only lost by a slim margin to Wang Lin.

Dao Yuting's performance was equally eye-catching. Many people were regretful that they could not witness a battle between Yue Hongyan and Dao Yuting.

After looking at Dao Yuting, Lin Feng turned his attention to the Great Qin Empire camp. Over there, Dao Zhiqiang lowered his head and dared not look at Dao Yuting.

On the other side, Shi Shaogan was blocked by Shi Xingyun. He was unhappy, which was pretty amusing.

But Lin Feng was more focused on Shi Shaogan rather than Dao Yuting.

It was not only him. Many of the Immortal Soul Stage Elders were also focusing their attention on Shi Shaogan.

He actually had some dealings with the Great Void Sect, which made many people confused. Although Shi Shaogan was only in the cultivation of the advanced stage of the Foundation Establishment Stage, his status was uncommon due to his blood relation with Prince Anliang, Shi Zongyue.

Prince Anliang's family and the orthodox royal family of the Great Qin Empire always had a close relationship.

Lin Feng had noticed before that when Shi Shaogan displayed the Dimension-less Transformation, the Vivant Joy Holy Man and the Gambling Holy Man from the Great Qin Empire were shocked. It seemed like they were unaware of it.

Only Prince Anliang, Shi Zongyue, was not shocked, which showed that he knew about it already.

"Is this just a small ploy by the Great Void Sect, or do they have something in mind?" Lin Feng pondered, "Are they being conservative or are they hurrying things?"

As he was pondering, Lin Feng and the rest of the Immortal Soul Stage Elders followed behind Shi Zongyue, as they flew above the Sea of the Northern Winds.

Although it was Lin Feng's first time joining the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai, it was not the first time that it was organized. Regarding news of the Ancient Huanghai World, Lin Feng had already heard of them.

The opening of the Ancient Huanghai World was at the deepest point of the Sea of the Northern Winds. After the opening was unlocked, cultivators below the cultivation of the Nascent Soul Stage could enter.

On the other side of the opening was the deepest point of the boundless Huanghai Ocean of the Ancient Huanghai World.

It was an extremely deep water body and the water pressure was immense. Even with the powers of a cultivator in the Aurous Core Stage, he might not even be able to handle the pressure. Cultivators in the Foundation Establishment Stage and below would be crushed.

In the Sea of the Northern Winds of the Greater Worlds, it was still more manageable. The dimensional power of the boundaries of the two worlds curbed the water pressure of the Huanghai Ocean, but across space and into the Ancient Huanghai World, such a problem would exist again.

At this point, the Dragon Boat of the Great Qin Empire that was just completed had to be used. Using the Dragon Boat to cross the boundless ocean would allow for the view of the sky in the Ancient Huanghai World.

Furthermore, the huge resources of the Ancient Huanghai World were all contained within the ocean. The Dragon Boat was therefore needed to gather these resources.

As Shi Zongyue placed his palms together, a wave rose on the water surface of the Sea of the Northern winds. Eight Dragon Boats started to show on the water surface and they were as big as loaches.

These Dragon Boats were not that big and were at most twenty meters in length. But Lin Feng could feel the strong surge of mana from within. The body of the Dragon Boat contained a line of charms that were used to resist the water pressure.

At this point, Shi Zongyue said, "My friends, every one of you shall command one Dragon Boat and use your powers to master it. After returning your disciples from the Ancient Huanghai World, please kindly return them to my Great Qin Empire."

Lin Feng and the rest nodded in agreement. This was necessary as it was pertinent for them to know how to control the Dragon Boat since their disciples were going to be ferried in it. Otherwise, if it was controlled by the Great Qin Empire, any accidents that occurred in the deep sea would be indisputable.

Unless it were their arch-enemies, the Great Qin Empire would not do something so lowly. But no one would dare to place the fate of their lives in the hands of other's morals.

Lin Feng's main body remained to master the Dragon Boat. On the other side, his Steel Tree Avatar crept into the crowd in the Hidden Dragon Gorge.

Inside the Hidden Dragon Gorge, it was very crowded at this

point. Everyone was engaging in all forms of trade.

There was an array of bustling activities inside the gorge. People were either the buyer or the seller, and they were haggling over the prices. Otherwise, they were quarreling with one another as they targeted the same items to buy.

Besides the Heaven Lake Sect and the Royal House of the Northern Tribes, there were meaningful interactions between the rest of the people.

This was also a main event within the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai, for the facilitation of commercial trade of cultivation resources.

It was different from the Spiritual Conference of Hanhai, organized by the Pavilion of Heavenly Trade within the Shazhou County. In the Spiritual Conference of Hanhai, there was a specialized currency to pay for different goods. Whereas over here, people engaged in barter trade.

Besides this, many of the young cultivators were interacting with one another and expanding their social circle. There could be surprising benefits from making these connections with one another.

Not only was the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai used to display a sect's talent pool, it was also used for the sect disciples to gain more connections and improve relationships with one another.

Lin Feng observed that his disciples were welcomed by many people.

Many of the Foundation Establishment Stage cultivators gathered around Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing. Even Zhuge Fengling benefited from them being in the limelight.

Some of the people with ulterior motives felt that Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing's status as Lin Feng's Immediate Disciple meant that they were less likely to reveal anything about the Celestial Sect of Wonders, as they were likely to be warier. That was why they got close to Zhuge Fengling instead and hoped to fish some of the news within the Celestial Sect of Wonders from her.

This scene left Lin Feng amused and he believed that this group of people were wasting their time asking. He knew that they could not find out anything valuable from her.

This was because Zhuge Fengling was unaware of most of the things in the Celestial Sect of Wonders.

But she was sly. Alternating between reality and falsehood, she managed to draw the attention of many people.

While there were those who welcomed the Celestial Sect of Wonders, there were also those who did not like their presence. For example, the Heaven Lake Sect and the Huo Family did not have a good impression of Xiao Budian, Yue Hongyan, and the rest.

On the contrary, cultivators from the Royal House of the Northern Tribes liked the disciples from the Celestial Sect of Wonders.

Lin Feng scanned the area and saw that Zhu Yi was talking with a Northern Tribe man. It seemed like he saw something he fancied.

Besides Zhu Yi, there were others who were surrounding the Northern Tribe man. All their gazes were fixated on a piece of black volcanic rock at the feet of the man.

The appearance of the black volcanic rock was nothing unusual. But as Lin Feng observed the rock, he knew that there was something special about it.

As he used his supernatural awareness to investigate, he realized that there was something mysterious about it. His awareness was devoured by the black volcanic rock.

This made Lin Feng excited, "Exactly, something that has been spotted by Zhu Yi must be interesting."

He had always guided others in the right direction in terms of such items.

But, who said that these foreign individuals were always simple and honest?

The trading conditions set out by this seemingly crude Northern Tribe man left everyone creasing their brows.

Cutting the rock.

Everyone could tell that this black volcanic rock was the embryo of some form of magic treasure. It was like a volcanic rock that wrapped a piece of beautiful jade within it.

"My friends, please try your luck by cutting this rock. Whoever can cut out the magic treasure within it will get to keep it."

But it was not free. Everyone who cut the rock had to give an item to the Northern Tribe man. If no magic treasure was retrieved, the item would not be returned to them.

This man was making a good deal.

As this trade deal was proposed, it caught the attention of the people around. Everyone creased their brows, but they were competitive too.

Using one's supernatural awareness was useless, thus no one could confirm the position of the magic treasure in the black volcanic rock. They did not even know the size of the magic treasure, while the black volcanic rock was one square foot long.

If the magic treasure was only the size of a grain of rice, then who knows how many cuts it would take to retrieve it. If their luck was

bad, then it would bankrupt everyone before the magic treasure was even cut out.

The man could tell the considerations of the crowd and said hurriedly, "After the rock is cut, the part that separates from the rock will become a normal rock and lose its powers."

As he said, he drew out a long spear and cut a small piece of the rock at its edge. After the small piece of rock was detached, the awareness-engulfing abilities of the rock had disappeared.

As the crowd saw this scene, their interest was piqued again. All of them wanted to try.

Lin Feng looked at the black volcanic rock and nodded his head lightly, "This is much simpler then. Every time the rock is cut, the useless pieces of the rock will be eliminated from the equation. But if one's luck was really bad, then many cuts will still be needed."

The Northern Tribe man stated his price. He knew that the way he conducted business was a little out of line, that was why his price for each person was not particularly high.

Zhu Yi stepped forward. But before he could speak, a young man in black suddenly approached and whipped out his spear. He attempted to slash the black volcanic rock.

It was the second young master of the Huo Family, Huo Ming.

Chapter 298: Mind Games

Without even speaking, Huo Ming came up and sliced the black volcanic rock.

At the same time, he paid the Northern Tribe man for slicing the rock once.

Zhu Yi raised his brows and traded five pieces of Thunderous Echo Elixir to the Northern Tribe man in exchange for slicing the rock. After that, he whipped out his sword and slashed two strokes, blocking off Huo Ming's long spear.

The killing intent of Huo Ming was unleashed at this point. There was a frightening aura emanating from his long spear and it was converted to a ferocious Asura Doomsday Blade. His target was the black volcanic rock and Zhu Yi.

The way he positioned his body and spear clearly showed that he wanted to cut the volcanic rock and Zhu Yi into half.

As the rest saw this scene, they watched Huo Ming and Zhu Yi excitedly.

Everyone knew that the person who made the first move might not necessarily be at an advantage. His efforts could be wasted and might even be helping his opponent.

But while making the later move increased the possibility of

winning, it could give the opponent the upper hand and it might be too late to regret then.

Besides a game of luck, this trade involving the cutting of the rock was also testing the mentality of people.

One who was impatient was undesirable. Being overcautious and indecisive was also equally undesirable.

Zhu Yi and Huo Ming understood this rationale, but they each wanted to be the first to cut the rock. This was caused by a psychological battle between the both of them.

If they could not cut it in the first try, they would go for a second one. But firstly, they had to possess the momentum, so as to bring about pressure to the other party.

Zhu Yi was calm as he faced Huo Ming's spear. His self-created Way of the Facile Blade changed, as he slashed two strokes. One was the 'Kan' Sword Technique while the other was the 'Dui' Sword Technique. 'Kan' was on the top while 'Dui' was at the bottom.

A person must exercise control in the things he did

Only with control could one act with propriety.

Control breeds relevance; A country that exercises efficient control was stable and a person who exercises control was perfect.

Zhu Yi's 'Jie' swordplay, formed by the combination of the 'Kan' and 'Dui' Sword Technique, controlled the devastating Asura Doomsday Blade of Huo Ming and prevented him from making another move.

Huo Ming focused his gaze on Zhu Yi. Before he changed his move, Zhu Yi had already retracted his sword. As he kept his sword, he sliced apart the volcanic rock into two.

The left half of the volcanic rock lost its spirituality and became a normal rock. It was no longer able to devour the analytical awareness of a cultivator. The right half of the volcanic rock retained its spirituality and was still able to cause a cultivator to lose his awareness.

After Zhu Yi sliced apart the volcanic rock, he stood firm and looked indifferent.

After staring at Zhu Yi for a while, Huo Ming did not continue to be on the offense. He did not draw his spear to slice the rock for a second time but kept it.

As he kept the spear, his killing intent disappeared too.

After losing to Zhu Yi in a bid to cut the rock, Huo Ming did not draw his spear again. Being the second to cut the rock was meaningless to him.

As the spectator watched Huo Ming retreating from the fight, they felt that he destroyed the fun.

Many of the spectators were hoping that the embarrassed Huo Ming would become angry and fight with Zhu Yi, allowing them to see a preview of the Aurous Core Stage competition.

Some of them with a higher cultivation and a keener eye became serious as they saw Huo Ming's gaze.

Zhu Yi was one of them. He looked at Huo Ming silently and thought, "If it was his brother Huo Chen, he would retaliate in embarrassment. But it is people like him that are less scary."

"Huo Ming could control the revelation of his killing intent well. Although he seemed hostile, he could maintain his calmness. This fits our 'Jie' sword technique. He is a worthy rival."

Lin Feng looked at Huo Ming in approval, "If he manages to stay alive, he will become the pillar of the Huo family one day. He would cultivate the deadly Asura Mantra and the Asura Doomsday Blade but still maintain his emotions well. Such a temperament will be very rare."

"The Huo family members were ranked in terms of their abilities. I heard that Huo Ming was ranked second? Who is the first place then, I am very curious about that. Not sure how he is compared to Shi Xingyun, Jiao Junchen, and Tao Yaoyao?"

A cultivation in the Aurous Core Stage was a very powerful one. The powers and talents of an Aurous Core Stage cultivator often had a significant influence on the growth and development of a sect."

As Lin Feng was pondering over the matter, he saw a group of people surrounding the black volcanic rock. After Zhu Yi had sliced it apart, no one dared to lay their hands on it anymore."

Although the price to pay for slicing the rock apart was not that high, the lack of result would mean that paying it was a waste of one's resources.

More accurately speaking, not only would it be a waste, it could even be aiding others.

No one knew what treasure the black volcanic rock was. They were unsure whether it was worth to pay such a huge price for it and cut it more than once.

It would be a tragedy if nothing could be retrieved from it.

At this point, a Sword of Radiance disciple stood up and paid the due amount to cut the rock before cutting the rock.

His rationale was simple. What if the surface of the rock was thin and the size of the treasure was not small? Maybe one slice could cut it out.

If the treasure was huge, then it would be easier to cut it out if it was done earlier.

However, the end result left him disappointed. As the volcanic rock was sliced into half again, one-half of it lost its spirituality while the other half maintained its spirituality.

At this point, everyone hesitated and the volcanic rock was left with a quarter of its original size. But the failure of the first two individuals made everyone think before acting.

Lin Feng slightly smiled. At this point, it was probably the most awkward moment. From then on, every cut could help to retrieve the magic treasure, but could also lead to failure and help any future individuals in increasing their chances of obtaining the treasure.

This was a dilemma. Those who really cared about the treasure were feeling the pressure now.

Those who were present at the scene were cultivators in the Aurous Core Stage. They were very tough individuals but in the face of such a situation, they were all at loss.

Of course, there were those who did not care. A Purple Clouds Sect cultivator laughed, "Not that you only have one choice, what are all of you hesitating for?"

He threw a purplish-blue gem towards the Northern Tribe man.

After that, he gathered his mana and consolidated it to form a Thunder and Lightning Blade. After that, he slashed the volcanic rock.

The volcanic rock broke into two halves. But the treasure did not appear and the rock's size was halved again.

The Purple Clouds Sect cultivator twisted his mouth and asked the Northern Tribe man, "Let me ask you, did you give us a fake rock to scam everyone?"

The man snorted, "Cut it and you will find it. If nothing comes out eventually, I will return everything that I have taken and apologize to everyone at this conference."

"Good, I will have a peace of mind in this way." The Purple Clouds Sect cultivator laughed. As he was saying, he threw a piece of purplish-blue gem out and was prepared to slice for a second time.

Huo Ming suddenly made a move and cut the volcanic rock first.

The Purple Clouds Sect cultivator picked his brows and smiled while shrugging his shoulders. But he did not stop Huo Ming.

Nothing from the rock appeared again.

Huo Ming creased his brows and stared at the even smaller rock for a moment. Suddenly, he turned and left.

The spectators were all shocked. Someone shouted, "What is this, must he also do this first? I still thought that he was coming up with something. Leaving after one failure, he has such poor determination."

"That is true, he is backing off after one failure." Someone else nearby commented.

As Zhu Yi and the Purple Clouds Sect cultivator heard, they shook their heads. As they saw each other's actions, their eyes lighted up.

"Huo Ming is not someone who cannot take a failure and gives up easily." The Purple Clouds Sect cultivator laughed while saying, "On the contrary, he had broken through his mantra bottleneck."

"He left to consolidate his powers. Compared to the breakthrough that he had achieved, the treasure was a minor issue."

Among the people around, some of them comprehended the logic while some were still skeptical.

Zhu Yi nodded, "That is the case."

He looked up at the Purple Clouds Sect cultivator and said, "My name is Zhu Yi, may I know what yours is?"

The cultivator smiled brightly and his face even had a dimple. "I am Gu Lei from the Purple Clouds Sect. You are too kind."

Zhu Yi nodded his head, "Would you like to make the next cut?"

Gu Lei laughed, "I am not one who calculates. I do as I please."

After he spoke, the second cut had already landed. But it was a pity nothing happened."

At this point, the black volcanic rock had already shrunk extremely small. Everyone looked at the rock nervously and the atmosphere became more and more serious.

Gu Lei did not stop and handed three purplish-blue gems to the Northern Tribe man. He followed it with the third cut.

"Third time lucky!" Gu Lei shouted and shook his head. He looked at the volcanic rock which was already the size of a fist only and laughed bitterly, "It seems like I have no fate with it."

Zhu Yi slightly smiled and did not speak. He did not make a move either.

Everyone was now tempted to cut the small rock. They felt that the next cut could be the decisive one.

Chapter 299: Xiao Budian the Teenager

"If we continue to follow this method of cutting the rock, by cutting it into half at the center, we will still need two cuts."

Lin Feng smiled slightly. After cutting it twice, he could already make the accurate judgment.

As the black volcanic rock was continuously being cut and its size was continuously shrinking, therefore, its ability to devour the supernatural awareness of a cultivator would diminish continuously.

A cultivator with a stronger supernatural awareness would be able to see through the barrier of the black volcanic rock and find out the true image of the magic treasure within it.

Although Lin Feng's Steel Tree Avatar had its own limits, the strength and spirituality of his soul was the same as his main body. That was why he could tell that the rock contained the tooth of some beastly creature.

But this tooth was not in the center of the rock. Rather, it was at the edge of the rock. If the method of cutting the rock through the center was followed, at least two cuts would be needed to encounter the rock.

Lin Feng looked at Zhu Yi's expression and knew that he had already found out what was in the rock.

Among Lin Feng's disciples in the Foundation Establishment Stage, Wang Lin had the most powerful soul. Although he was only in the beginner stage, he was above Yue Hongyan and Yang Qing in terms of the strength and spirituality of his soul.

Whereas within the Aurous Core Stage disciples, Zhu Yi had the most powerful soul. It was even crossing the limits of an Aurous Core Stage cultivator.

Although he could figure out the existence of the tooth, he could not determine its position. That was why Zhu Yi was patiently waiting.

But if he missed out on the tooth, then he could only blame it on destiny.

What made Lin Feng uneasy was that the next person who wanted to cut the rock did not plan to cut it from the center. Rather, he was hesitating between cutting either end of the rock.

If he chose the side where the tooth was, then this cut would reveal it.

But Lin Feng was relieved when the guy chose the other side and did not managed to cut out the tooth.

At this point, Zhu Yi could figure out the exact position of the tooth. He immediately whipped out five pieces of the Thunderous

Echo Elixir and drew his sword to cut the rock.

Just as Zhu Yi made a move, three people rushed out from the crowd and threw some treasures towards the Northern Tribe man. After that, they all fought to reach the rock first.

Lin Feng saw this and immediately knew that they were observing Zhu Yi. When Zhu Yi made a move, they took the opportunity to strike.

These three cultivators used Zhu Yi's judgment as a reference to strike.

"The three of you really look up to my disciple." Lin Feng shook his head while laughing, "But I must say, that was brilliant!"

But the problem was that it was futile!

Zhu Yi did not even blink his eyes as the three men rushed out. The Light and Darkness Aurous Core in his body started to vibrate vigorously. The aura of good and evil surged out as he swept his hand across.

The power of good was converted into a bright radiance while the power of evil was converted into a deep and dark aura.

They formed a huge boundary and its shape looked like, but at the same time did not look like, a Mandala Flower.

Zhu Yi's Great Boundaries of the Celestial Light and Darkness Mandala!

The expressions of the three men changed. They immediately stopped in their tracks and performed their own mantras to breach the boundaries.

The Great Boundaries of the Celestial Light and Darkness Mandala trapped the mana of the three men. After that, it suddenly shrank and collapsed towards the middle, as if it was a small-scale Destruction of Heaven and Earth. The mantras of the three men were destroyed totally.

Everyone around were entirely shocked as they looked at Zhu Yi. The ferocity of his mantra was beyond what everyone had expected.

"No wonder he could overcome a Nascent Soul Stage Elder!" Everyone thought of this instantaneously, "It seems like the Aurous Core Stage disciple of the Celestial Sect of Wonders is even more ferocious than the Foundation Establishment Stage disciples!"

The three men were in shock, but they dared not make any wrong move. They only stared as Zhu Yi waved his sword to slice open the rock, revealing the tooth.

The tooth was very sharp and a dark aura emanated from it. It did not look auspicious and left everyone crept out.

The tooth was black and flashed with a dark light. It was filled with a mysterious and strange power concept.

Zhu Yi grabbed the tooth and looked at the Northern Tribe man. The man was also looking at the tooth of his hand. He said, "Since you have cut out this treasure, you shall keep it."

Zhu Yi nodded his head and looked at everyone. Everyone that was staring at Zhu Yi looked unfriendly, especially those who paid for cutting the rock but ended up with nothing.

Gu Lei laughed at one corner, "Seems like this treasure is fated to belong to you, Comrade Zhu. I congratulate you for this reward."

As he stood with Zhu Yi, their statures were greatly boosted. No one wanted to offend the Celestial Sect of Wonders and Purple Clouds Sect.

Although a group of people were indignant about it, they could not do anything. Zhu Yi looked at the three men who tried to cut the rock and said calmly, "Are the three of you cultivators of the Great Qin Empire?"

One of the men, who was a tall and lean youth, turned his head and said fiercely, "What, do you want to continue to attack us? Do it if you want to. I will really like to see how good you are."

He knew that since he was in the Hidden Dragon Gorge, Zhu Yi

could not kill him anyway. That was why he was not fearful.

Zhu Yi did not even look at the youth, but turned to his two companions, saying, "Tell Princess Xingyun to command her people instead."

After saying it, Zhu Yi waved his hand and the Great Boundaries of the Celestial Light and Darkness Mandala appeared again, trapping the youth.

The tall and lean youth shouted furiously and a golden white light dragon appeared around him. He had cultivated a mantra of the Imperial Script of the White Dragon from the Secret Manual of the Five Imperial True Dragons.

He wanted to use the golden white light dragon to break Zhu Yi's Great Boundaries of the Celestial Light and Darkness Mandala, but he ended up hurt instead.

Inside the boundaries, countless bright and dark rays intersected and created an independent small world.

No matter how much the golden white light dragon tried, it could not release itself from the trap.

But the boundaries did not collapse like before and only trapped the youth within it.

The youth was furious. Both he and Shi Shaogan were of the

royal blood. Although he was not from the orthodox royal family, he still possessed royal blood within him. How could he be caged up like a prisoner?

This was a humiliation worse than death to him.

The other two Aurous Core Stage cultivators were his subordinates. When they wanted to help him, they were easily forced back by Zhu Yi.

They dared not say anything and only rushed back to inform Shi Xingyun.

Zhu Yi ignored the youth who was ranting and cursing. He kept the Great Boundaries of the Celestial Light and Darkness Mandala and turned around to nod at Gu Lei, "Sorry to have made you wait."

Gu Lei laughed, "You are too kind. If you have the time, let me introduce my junior to you."

Zhu Yi followed him. As he walked, he was pondering, "That tooth seemed to contain some form of dark power concept. Not sure where does it originate from."

As he could not understand where the tooth came from, Lin Feng helped him through the system by distinguishing it.

Lin Feng was surprised, "It is the tooth of the Dark Beast, Ming

Du. This comes as a surprise."

Previously, Lin Feng had engaged in a lucky draw through the system and won a magic item. It was a jade carving of a Black Crow and it contained the spiritual power of a Tianluo.

Tianluo, or also known as the Black Crow, was one of the most domineering Immemorial Demon. It was birthed out of an untouchable darkness and it was a beast that controlled a mysterious yet dark power.

But the Tianluo was not the strongest living spirit that possessed such a dark power. It was the Dark Beast, Ming Du.

Ming Du was shaped like a panther and its head had a lone horn. Its entire body was black and was covered with purplish-blue flowery patterns. It was extremely savage and it was an even more powerful Immemorial Demon than the Tianluo.

When Lin Feng obtained the jade carving of the Black Crow, he felt that he was a little lacking in his knowledge of dark power, although he had a faint idea of it.

On one hand, the spirituality of the jade carving was incomplete. On the other hand, the dark power of the Tianluo deviated from the source of dark power quite significantly.

But now that they have obtained the tooth of Ming Du, both Lin Feng and Zhu Yi could gain a deeper understanding of dark power.

Light and darkness were two extremes. Lin Feng possessed the Endless Brilliance Tathāgata Mantra from the Great Thunderclap Temple. But now if he could understand the source of dark power and the mystery behind it from Ming Du's tooth, then he could enter a new level in terms of his comprehension of the powers of light and darkness.

Lin Feng's Steel Tree Avatar did not follow behind Zhu Yi and Gu Lei. He walked around on his own and observed the contents of the trade deals everywhere.

But he expanded his supernatural awareness and continued to keep a lookout for his disciples.

He saw Gu Lei leading Zhu Yi to a group of Purple Clouds Sect cultivators. Xiao Budian was there too.

As he saw Zhu Yi approaching, Xiao Budian immediately laughed, "Second Senior, this lady is Li Kuiyin from the Purple Clouds Sect."

Zhu Yi was a little taken aback, whereas Lin Feng was stunned.

Xiao Budian was smiling widely and his eyes were sparkling. He was like a cute teenager.

He talked very sweetly, which caused Lin Feng's goosebumps to stand.

He looked at Li Kuiyin carefully. She was a tall female cultivator. Like Gu Lei, she was in the advanced stage of the Aurous Core Stage. She looked like a determined person.

But she was very friendly at this point. Judging from Xiao Budian's look, it seemed that he was fond of her.

Although she looked young, she was actually about a hundred years old. Xiao Budian was elated as he termed her 'Big Sister'.

Zhu Yi took some time to regain his awareness. He communicated with Xiao Budian surreptitiously.

"What are you up to?"

Xiao Budian made a silly face at him, away from Li Kuiyin.

Chapter 300: One Versus One

Zhu Yi used his mana to communicate with Xiao Budian, "What are you up to, by escorting her around?"

Xiao Budian replied, "I obtained some Spiritual Lightning Fruit from her just now. It tastes quite nice. I will like to obtain more from her."

Zhu Yi asked, "When did you turn vegetarian?"

Xiao Budian replied him, "As long as it tastes good, I am fine with it. I have been eating too much meat. A change in taste can aid in cleaning my digestive system."

"Besides eating, can you think of something else to do?" Zhu Yi said unkindly.

Xiao Budian pursed his lips, "When I grow older, I will consider other things to do."

"You are just a lazy rogue!" Zhu Yi commented, "Besides, if you really like her Spiritual Lightning Fruit, why not just trade with her? Why do you have to go through all this trouble?"

Xiao Budian blinked his eyes, "Oh yes, I forgot."

He turned to look at Li Kuiyin and laughed, "Sister Li, I will like

to trade a few more Spiritual Lightning Fruits with you, is it okay? I can trade them with my magic treasures."

Li Kuiyin laughed, "You do not have to trade anything. It is not as if this Spiritual Lightning Fruit is some special thing. If you like it, take as much as you want."

Gu Lei laughed at one corner, "Kuiyin, why are you normally not so generous towards me?"

Towards him, Li Kuiyin was not very polite. She rolled her eyes, "You are already eating the Spiritual Lightning Fruit like rice normally. You do not need me to supply you anymore, do you?"

Gu Lei shook his head in laughter as he looked at her.

As he looked at the both of them, Xiao Budian and Zhu Yi could not help but look at each other. They revealed smiles on their face too.

Zhu Yi and Xiao Budian could tell that Gu Lei and Li Kuiyin shared a close bond. The way that they looked at each other suggested that they might be a couple.

At this moment, a macho man from the Northern Tribes walked over. Before he had even reached, his voice could already be heard. He laughed, "Gu Lei, are you forced to concede again?"

Gu Lei laughed but did not speak. Li Kuiyin gave him an annoyed

look, "Dou Kun, are you itching to be beaten up again?"

Dou Kun was the most outstanding Aurous Core Stage cultivator in the younger generation of the Royal House of the Northern Tribes. He looked tough and was the true Immemorial Celestial Dragon. His physical strength was comparable or even better than an Aurous Core Stage Demonic Commander.

Amongst all disciples in the younger generation who took part in the Spiritual Conference of Huanghai, only he could cause a threat towards Xiao Budian in terms of physical strength.

Dou Kun was obviously very familiar with Li Kuiyin. He laughed, "If it was Gu Lei saying this, at least it sounded more convincing. But when you said it, I am unafraid."

Li Kuiyin replied sarcastically, "I will let you know how good I am sooner or later."

Beside Dou Kun was another lean youth that was dressed more complicated than him. He smiled slightly and said, "I will prefer to see Dou Kun and Comrade Gu fight again instead."

Gu Lei laughed, "Stop joking. After winning him once, I am not prepared to fight with him again. I will not give him an opportunity to turn the tables."

As he looked at the lean youth, he said, "But talking about it, I will like to spar with you, Sang Luohe. All the cultivators from the

Northern Tribes that I have encountered were all trained in martial arts. I have rarely seen a sorcerer like you that is trained in the art of the soul."

Xiao Budian and Zhu Yi heard that and they both looked at Sang Luohe.

As what Gu Lei mentioned, cultivators trained in martial arts were common in the Northern Tribes. Out of ten, at least eight were these cultivators. But the sorcerers that were trained in the art of soul in another branch of the Royal House of the Northern Tribes were less common.

The numbers were already very little. Along with the fact that most of them rarely showed up in public, it was very uncommon to spot them around.

Even Lin Feng's supernatural awareness was focused on Sang Luohe. He was very interested in a Northern Tribes sorcerer who specialized in the soul.

Besides the Great Void Sect's "Exploration of the Great Void Thinking", only the Royal House of the Northern Tribes had sorcerers that specialized in mantras of the soul.

On the other hand, there were many species in the demonic clan that specialized in the mantras of the soul rather than physical martial arts or demonic powers.

"The lightning spells of the Purple Clouds Sect are the best in overcoming the mantras of the soul. Your suggestion is pretty good." Looking at the eager Gu Lei, Sang Luohe laughed while shaking his head.

His attention was drawn towards Zhu Yi and Xiao Budian, "If there is a chance, Sang Luohe will like to spar with the both of you."

Although he dressed in a foreign manner, the way he spoke was not fast or slow. It was different from an average gallant Northern Tribes man.

Zhu Yi smiled slightly, "Even if we do not draw each other in the spiritual conference, we can still spar."

Xiao Budian wanted to say something, but he thought of something and turned around. He saw a young man staring at him. As Xiao Budian looked over, the man did not even shift his gaze. On the other hand, he became even more provocative.

Zhu Yi turned his head to look, "He is from the Heaven Lake Sect. Do you remember Mu Jihai?"

Xiao Budian shrugged his shoulders and realized that Mu Jihai had a dangerous look in his eyes.

Dou Kun and Sang Luohe looked at Mu Jihai and the both of them laughed. Dou Kun said, "Ignore him. He is just a clown,

leaving in the shadows of Song Qingyuan."

"Song Qingyuan?" Zhu Yi and Xiao Budian both thought of the figure of a young man smiling. But as they thought of Song Qingyuan, they could not help but feel a chill down their spines, as if they were facing a creepy poisonous snake.

Although it was not scary, it still made them feel uncomfortable.

Sang Luohe looked at Mu Jihai and said slowly, "He is quite outstanding in terms of his cultivation of mantras. But his character is lacking. Barring any surprises, he will never surpass Song Qingyuan in this lifetime."

Mu Jihai shifted his gaze between Xiao Budian, Dou Kun, and the Northern Tribes cultivators. Eventually, it stopped at Xiao Budian. He laughed creepily and performed an action of cutting his throat towards Xiao Budian.

Xiao Budian scoffed and looked at Mu Jihai as if he was looking at a mischievous kid.

For someone as young as him to give this sort of treatment was the most brutal insult ever.

Mu Jihai looked even more scary at this point and seemed as if he wanted to strike immediately. But as he shifted his gaze, he saw something that caught his attention more. He just snorted and turned his body in another direction.

Xiao Budian looked in the same direction and saw a man and woman standing together. The woman was Dao Yuting whereas the man was Song Qingyuan.

As usual, Song Qingyuan appeared very courteous and his face wore a smile.

But Dao Yuting was different from before. Initially, she was unconcerned about many things, but as she stood beside Song Qingyuan, she was trembling uncontrollably.

It was out of fear.

Because of fear, her body was trembling non-stop. It was like a rabbit or a deer facing a beast in the natural world.

Song Qingyuan laughed slightly while speaking followed by exiting the Hidden Dragon Gorge. Dao Yuting hesitated for a moment before following behind him.

After them was Mu Jihai. He looked downbeat as he stared at Song Qingyuan's back view.

Xiao Budian was curious as he saw this scene. After bidding goodbye to Zhu Yi and the rest, he rushed out of the gorge too.

Lin Feng witnessed all of this, but he was not bothered about it.

Although he had some plans and ideas about the relationship between Dao Zhiqiang and Dao Yuting, he did not have any direct contact with Dao Yuting.

Anyway, with Dao Yuting's talent and potential, Song Qingyuan could not have really done anything towards her, otherwise, Cao Wei would teach him a lesson.

Even if he was Cao Wei's biological son, Cao Wei would not spare him if he hurt Dao Yuting. What more since he was only a budding talent and a future leader of the Heaven Lake Sect.

Dao Yuting's abilities were inferior to him, but the potential that she displayed was at least comparable. Under normal circumstances, they would all be the pillar of the Heaven Lake Sect and even the successor to the Heaven Lake Sect.

That was why Lin Feng did not really bother about this. Xiao Budian followed them as he was curious, but Lin Feng did not interfere in his decision.

But after this, Lin Feng discovered that something was amiss. Mu Jihai was following Song Qingyuan and Dao Yuting, while Xiao Budian was following Mu Jihai. But there was someone else following Xiao Budian!

Furthermore, it was a supreme cultivator in the Nascent Soul Stage. It was a middle-aged man wearing a green dress. He looked average but exuded a calm stature.

Lin Feng recalled that he belonged to the Great Qin Empire. He was very low profile during the spiritual conference and was just present to hold the fort for the Great Qin Empire cultivators.

But Lin Feng could tell that even though he looked normal, it was obvious that he was tailing Xiao Budian on purpose.

"What does he want?" Lin Feng raised his brows and commanded his Steel Tree Avatar to follow behind him.

After exiting the Hidden Dragon Gorge, Song Qingyuan continued to lead the way. He seemed very relaxed. Dao Yuting followed behind him, but she seemed to have a lot of things on her mind and she looked very scared.

But she was silent and only tensed her lips while following Song Qingyuan.

Song Qingyuan reached a quiet spot and stopped in his tracks. He turned to look at Dao Yuting, saying, "This place seems nice, does it not?"

Dao Yuting was silent, but Song Qingyuan did not expect a reply. He turned his head in another direction and laughed slightly.

In that direction, Mu Jihai was standing expressionlessly and seemed to know that Song Qingyuan had discovered him. But he did not move his body.

Song Qingyuan turned his head around and smiled slightly at Dao Yuting. His smile was warm as usual but there was a movement of icy mana in his body. It engulfed Dao Yuting's entire body.

Dao Yuting groaned. Her pale face became even more white and she revealed a painful expression.